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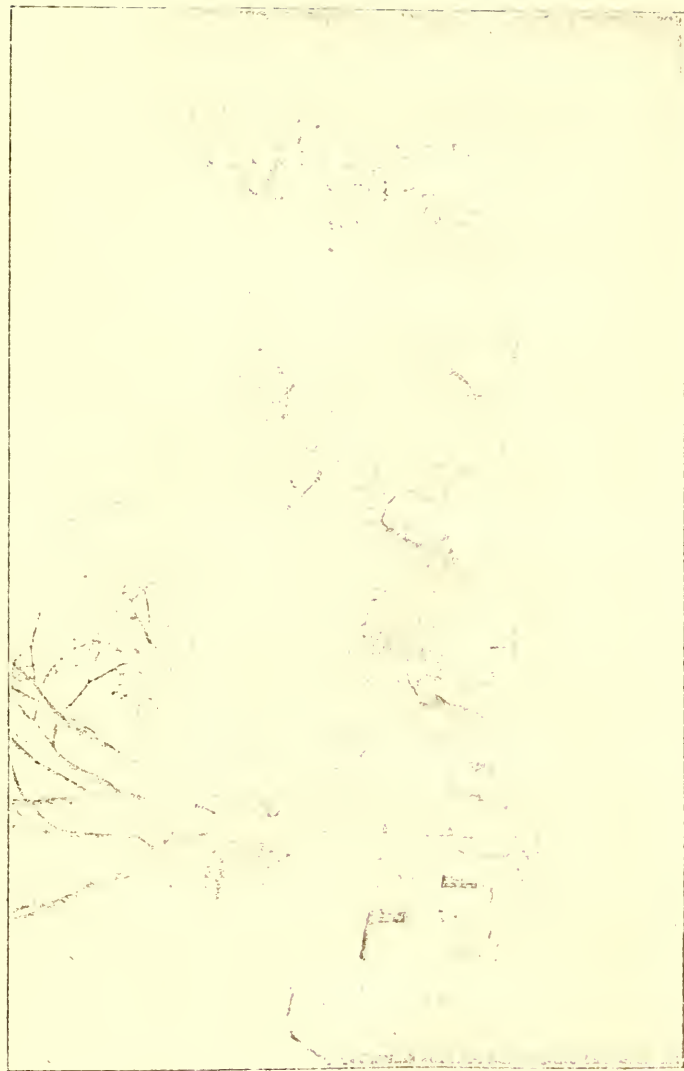
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"THE BRICK HOUSE FRONTING ON JAMAICA PATH."

THE PEASLEES

AND

Others of Haverhill and Vicinity

BY

E. A. KIMBALL.

HAVERHILL, MASS.:
WELLS OF CHASE BROTHERS,
1899.

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PREFACE.

It has for some time been the desire of the author of this sketch to preserve the incidents connected with the history of the early settlers and their homes in the easterly part of Haverhill, some of which were related by Eliza Bartlett Kimball and her brother, William Hazen Kimball, lately deceased. To these fragments of history has been added information obtained from Chase's "History of Haverhill;" Coffin's "Newbury;" Merrill's "Amesbury;" Bouton's "Concord" and "New Hampshire State Papers;" some incidents and dates from Pickard's "Life of John G. Whittier," and "Part One" of Hoyt's "Old Families;" verified, enlarged and in some instances corrected by the Records of Haverhill, Amesbury and Methuen, also the Probate Records, and Essex Registry of Deeds at Salem.

Acknowledgements are due to Mr. George F. Beede, Miss Rebecca I. Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Swain, and Mr. John B. Nichols, 2nd, for the privilege of examining ancient family papers, or records in their possession, and to all others who have in any way assisted in the work, not omitting the city clerk, Mr. Roberts, and his assistants.

E. A. K.

East Haverhill, Mass., 1899.

CHAPTER I.

Whoever opens, for examination, the old book of Town Records of Haverhill, Massachusetts, will find on one of its first pages

“ Joseph Peasley & Mary
Joseph, born Sept. 9, 1646.”

And, on further investigation, will observe frequently the name of Joseph Peasley, father and son, through the records of three-quarters of a century.

From Coffin, the historian of Newbury, we learn that Joseph Peasley was “an early settler of that town: that his daughter Sarah was born September 9, 1642, and that he died in Amesbury, December 3, 1660.” From Chase, in *The History of Haverhill*, we obtain the additional information that “he came from England; was in Haverhill before 1646; was made a freeman June 22, 1642, and that he removed to Salisbury, where he died.”

Miss Johnson of Oak Knoll, Danvers, is authority for the statement that Joseph Peasley married, in Wales, Mary Johnson, the daughter of a farmer possessed of considerable worldly estate; that the couple came to this country at about the same time as Edmund Johnson, who left England in 1635, and with his wife Mary was in Hampton, New Hampshire, in 1639.

With the Johnsons the Peasleys were connected by marriage and the ties of intimate friendship.

When, in 1635, Edmund Johnson, at the age of twenty-three years, left England, he was unmarried.

Turning the pages of the old book of records, we find that, in 1645, when the “great Pond Meadow” of Haverhill was divided, “beginning at the East end,” Joseph Peasley received as his share “four acres lying by the upland and bounded with two stakes.” John Davis, born in England, son of James Davis, Sen., who held land adjoining that of

Mr. Peasley, married December 10, 1646, Jane, the daughter of Joseph Peasley. Their children, recorded in Haverhill, were Mary, born November 6, 1647; Sarah, March 7, 1648, and John, born August 22, 1651. He is said to have removed to Dover, N. H.

In 1650 the town voted "that Joseph Peaslee and Bartholemew Heath shall have liberty to set up each of them a barn upon the common," which meant land not granted to any individual.

"Dec. 30, 1650, voted that Joseph Peasley should have his four acres of land which he was to take up over the little river laid out in the Plain adjoining to his land which formerly was part of land of Thomas Davis." The "Plain" was afterwards known as "Tilton's Corner" now Riverside. Here was the Haverhill home of Joseph Peasley, near what is now the head of East Broadway, on the side towards the river, where now is a small apple orchard.

In 1652 it was voted to open a highway "at the upper end of Goodman Peasley's house lot."

- X "June 7, 1652, voted and granted that the second division of plough land shall begin at the head of Joseph Peasley's pond meadow and so to go north and west and east until each man's own proportion is laid out according to order and true meaning." The next year he received in separate tracts and shares of land forty-one acres, besides "his share in the ox-common between the ponds," which was four acres. In the third and fourth divisions of meadow thirty-six acres were set off to him. He belonged to the Society of Friends or Quakers, and sometimes, in the absence of a minister, exhorted the people on the Sabbath; but in 1653, he, with Thomas Macy of Salisbury, was prohibited from exercising his gift of exhortation.

From Merrill's History of Amesbury we learn that at a meeting in Salisbury, "July 17th, 1656, Joseph Peaslee was made a townsman, and granted twenty acres of upland, bought of Thomas Macy, and ten acres of meadow at the pond, for which the town agreed to pay 6 pounds to Thomas Macy." "This Joseph Peaslee, whom the commoners of Salisbury received and to whom they gave considerable land, was a self-constituted preacher, as well as farmer, and eventually proved troublesome on that account."

In 1657 Mr. Peaslee had land near "Mill river." "October 29, 1658, a general meeting was held and a large tract of land beyond the pond, bordering on Back river, was ordered to be laid out in lots eighty

rods long, ranging southerly." Of this division of Salisbury land "Joseph Peisly" received forty acres.

The old town of Salisbury had almost forced the settlement of the new part, west of the Powow river. May 26, 1658, an attempt was made by the inhabitants of the new part to separate themselves from the old, in order "to be a distinct town and make provision for the maintenance of public worship." This was not liked by the old town and the petition to be made a separate precinct was not granted by the General Court, but they were ordered "to attend the worship of God together in the old towne and to contribute towards the support of preaching there." Joseph Peaslee, however, paid little regard to the order, and continued to preach, while the people refused to attend worship in the old town, for which offense they were fined five shillings each for "every day's absence on the Lord's day." In 1659 five hundred acres of land were given to the children of the commoners, "Joseph, son of Joseph Peasley," receiving a share with sixteen others.

The church at Salisbury old town considered the preaching of Joseph Peaslee "very weak and unfit," while the inhabitants of the new portion encouraged him in his labors. He was again fined five shillings per week for his disobedience and ordered not to preach. Merrill states that "he died previous to 1662, in Haverhill," while Chase of Haverhill states that he died in Salisbury. The latter is correct. The record may be found in an old town book of Salisbury. He died December 3, 1660. Of him Merrill says: "If he was 'very weak and unfit' for preaching, he was a successful farmer, and left his son a good property." He made his will November 11, 1660, which is on file in Salem, but so faded it is very difficult to read. It is not plain what portion of the property was willed to his wife during her life, a few words being worn and indistinct, but, from following events, it appears that she lived, after the death of her husband, at the home in Salisbury.

"The last Will and Testament of Josef Peasley is that my debts shall be payed out of my Estate and the remainder of my estate — my debts being payed I doo give and bequeath unto Mary my wiff During her life and I doo give my daffter Sara all my hous and lands that I have at Salisbury and I doo give unto Josef my soune all my land that I have upon the plain at Haverhil and doo give unto Josef my soune all my medo ling in East medo at Haverhil and doo give unto Josef my soune five shares of the common rites that doo belong to me on

the plain. I doo give unto my daffter Elizabeth my fourty fower acres of upland ling westwards of Haverhil and doo give unto my daffter Elizabeth fower acres and a half of medo ling in the —— at Haverhil and doo also give to my daffter Elizabeth fower of the common rites that doo belong to the plain and doo give unto daffter Jean fower shillings and to my daffter Mary fower shillings. I doo give unto Sara Saier my grandchild my upland and medo ling in —— medo.

And I doo give unto my sonne Josef all the remainder of my land at Haverhil which is not herein disposed of. I doo also make Mary my wiff my Soule execcuter and do also leave Josef my sonne and the estate I have given him to my wiff to poss on till Josef my sonne be twenty years of aige."

Phillip Challis and Thomas Barnard were witnesses to the will. James Davis, Sen., and Theophilus Satchwell, both of Haverhill, "did their best endeavors" in appraising the estate. In Haverhill they found twelve acres, more or less, in the plain, fenced; another tract of thirty-six acres: one of eighteen, unfenced; forty four acres west of Little River, four on Spickett Hill; the west meadow; Spickett meadow; the 4th Division of upland not yet fenced; four acres of the 3d Division of meadow; the "new-found meadow"; four oxen commons and other cow commons; "one grinding stone and iron bar."

In the Inventory of the Estate we find House land and meadow: "1 grinding stone; 2 smoothing irons; 1 pair andirons; 1 iron pot; 8 skillets; pot hook; flesh hook and frying pan; 2 Bibles and other books; chests, barrels, spinning wheel and other lumber;" forty bushels of wheat, sixty of Indian corn; three cows and two heifers; wool, flax, hemp and yarn.

The widow received a lot of land lying upon the river in Salisbury, soon after his decease. Before he died he received at the March meeting a grant of "a tounsheip for his son" Joseph, which was a right to vote and take part in town meetings when old enough.

In 1662 widow Peaslee received a share in a division of land which was lot 19, consisting of one hundred and eight acres.

In 1664 "Widow Peaslee, Exacitor to Joseph Piesly," received twenty acres of land in exchange for six acres of salt marsh formerly granted to her husband."

Mr. Peaslee occasionally practiced medicine; was one of the commissioners for the settlement of claims and was selectman of Haverhill in the years 1649, '50 and '53. Mary, the widow, lived many years.

The part of Salisbury to which Joseph and Mary Peaslee removed from Haverhill was given the name of Amesbury, from which was granted Newtown, now Newton, N. H.

In that town, near the Junction, in the heart of the woods, is the old Quaker burying ground where rest many early settlers of that faith and the Peaslee name. There, surrounded by graceful hemlocks and murmuring pines, are rows of graves unmarked save by rude unlettered stones at the head and foot of each. In this secluded spot may repose the dust of Joseph and Mary. It is gratifying to know that measures have been taken to restore and keep in good condition this ancient burial place. For this purpose it has recently been deeded by Arthur P. French of Danville, New Hampshire, to the "Overseers of the Monthly Meeting of Friends" of Amesbury, Mass.

Joseph Peaslee, Jr., son of Joseph, was but fourteen years of age when his father died, consequently, for several years his doings and whereabouts were not of sufficient importance to be recorded by the town clerk. While this heir to the Peaslee estate was growing to manhood, under the guardianship of his mother, in Salisbury newtown, the town of Haverhill was slowly but steadily growing towards the suburb now called Rocks Village. There is abundant proof in well-preserved private papers, as well as public records, that, in 1652, a tavern called "Coffin's Ordinary" was kept at the ferry, a short distance above the present Rocks bridge. The "King's Highway," from Newbury, crossed the Merrimac at this point. The "Twelve-rod-way," formerly called "Goodman Ayer's cart-way," leading from "Coffin's Ordinary" to the county highway between Haverhill and Salisbury, was laid out in 1663. Two years later the road from "Country Bridge to Holt's Rocks" was opened, and, in 1667, the River road, once "Jamaca Path," was laid out on condition that those who used it should keep it in repair. James Davis, Sen., and his son James, Jr., possessed considerable land upon the "great river" in 1652, one portion of which was "bounded by a red oke at Coffin's Ordinary." James Davis, Jr., married first, December 1, 1648, Elizabeth Eaton and had ten children. His second wife was Mary ——. Ephraim, another son of James, Sen., and his wife, Mary (Johnson), married December 31, 1659, had eight. Samuel,

from whom are descended the present owners of the estate, married December 17, 1663, Deborah Barnes and had eight. Stephen, eldest son of Ephraim and Mary, married December 23, 1685, Mary Tucker and had ten. Elizabeth, daughter of James, Jr., and Elizabeth (Eaton) married October 31, 1676, Robert Hastings, and was the mother of seven children. So the Davis family made a small colony by themselves, dwelling, according to tradition, in four log houses, near the site of the present Davis homestead.

Joseph Peaslee, son of Joseph, married Ruth Barnard, of Salisbury, January 21, 1671. His daughter Mary was born there July 11, 1672. She married Joseph Whittier and was the great grandmother of John Greenleaf Whittier.

The children of Joseph and Ruth Peaslee, recorded in Haverhill, are Joseph, born July 19, 1674; Robert, born February 3, 1677; John, born February 25, 1679; Nathaniel, born June 25, 1682; Ruth, born February 25, 1684; Ebenezer, born March 29, 1688, died April 11, 1689; and Sarah, born August 15, 1690.

On page 94, "Chase's "History of Haverhill," in "A list of more houses built which fall under the law made in 1690, which prohibits them from privileges in Common lands," is the name "Joseph Peasley." Under this list is the following entry: "This account was entered Jan. 25, '75, by the Selectmen. William White, George Brown, Daniel Hendricks, Thomas Eaton, Selectmen in 1675."

The house erected by Joseph Peasley, prior to 1675, on the Country Bridge road, a short distance west of the Twelve rod-way, is now widely known as the "Old Garrison."

On the same page of the history is the record of a house built by Robert Hastings in 1676. This was not far from the home of the Peaslees. It may have been a log house, and a larger one have been erected a few years later; but, the house of Robert Hastings was, in 1696, licensed as a tavern. There was no Hastings among the Proprietors of the town of Haverhill. Being a mason or bricklayer, it is easy to conjecture that he came to the place to work on the house of Joseph Peaslee. It is certain that he married Elizabeth Davis, born March 11, 1653-4; that her father gave to Robert Hastings the land on which he built his house, and a few years later added to the former gift of land one cow-common right and pasturage.

Robert Hastings, Sen., in a deed recorded April 21, 1710, gave to his son Robert thirty acres of land on the "back side of ye said land I now live upon"; also a piece of meadow, half the orchard, and the east end of the house, to be his at the signing of the deed. For himself and wife, during life, he reserved the other half of the house and orchard; after their decease, Robert, the son, was to have the whole house and all of the orchard.

Elizabeth, the daughter of Robert Hastings, Jr., married Joseph Kelly, Jr., and lived on the homestead. It has never passed out of the family, the present owner being a descendant of the Kelly and Hastings families under a different name.

In 1675 occurred King Phillip's War, when the inhabitants of Haverhill, though not attacked, were greatly alarmed, and endeavored to protect themselves against the ravages of the hostile Indians. "Troopers and militia were furnished with firearms and ammunition by the General Court, and towns were ordered to provide fortifications and garrisons." "Daniel Ladd, Peter Ayer and Thomas Whittier were appointed to designate what houses should be garrisoned." Armed scouts were kept on the watch for the enemy day and night during the whole time. A diligent search of the records does not reveal what houses were designated by the aforesaid committee to be garrisoned. Chase informs us that "as late as 1684 thirty-five troopers were kept constantly on the scout, on the borders of Haverhill, Amesbury and Salisbury, and a foot-company was kept ready for service in each of these towns." The large, strong house of Joseph Peasley, with its numerous port-holes, so conveniently near the border line of Salisbury and Haverhill, would furnish ample accommodations, not only as a "house of refuge" for the half a dozen families of the neighborhood, but for the troopers "kept constantly on the scout" in the out-lying district.

In 1686, Joseph Peasley, with a score of others, was charged with trespassing upon the "Town's ways and common lands by fencing them in." The next year he was chosen constable, and was obliged to do alone, for the whole town, all the work of "warning meetings and gathering rates."

On page 156 of Chase's History is the statement that "two brick houses belonging to Joseph and Nathaniel Peaslee, in the easterly part of the town, were appointed for houses of refuge. A few soldiers were

stationed in them, who were under the command of their owners." This was in the year 1690. As Nathaniel Peaslee was, at that time, but eight years of age, there is, evidently, a mistake about his being the owner, and having command of soldiers stationed in it. The two houses are located by Chase, at Tilton's Corner, and but a short distance apart. Would two houses have been garrisoned so near each other, and no protection given to the inhabitants in the more easterly part of the town? The Peaslee house at Tilton's Corner, then a house of refuge, was, probably, at a later date, the home of Nathaniel, who was so prominent in town affairs, and it is but reasonable to infer that the house of Joseph Peaslee, then used as a house of refuge, was the one built and occupied by him near Holt's Rocks.

It is not strange that tradition places the house of Joseph Peaslee at Tilton's Corner, for, in 1728, Nathaniel and his brother Joseph exchanged land, Nathaniel giving a "Quit Claim" to thirty acres, beginning at the highway between Haverhill and Amesbury, running south to Merrimac river, east by the river to land bought of Richard Saltonstall, northerly by Saltonstall by Holgate's land to aforesaid highway, west by highway to first bound, with all "privileges, buildings, edifices and appurtenances, reserving, nevertheless, the free use and improvement of a small way through the premises."

In 1692 Joseph Peaslee was granted "the privilege of erecting a sawmill at the head of east meadow river upon the stream by or near Brandy Brow." The mill was built the following year, and for a hundred and fifty years was owned wholly or in part by persons of the Peaslee name, the descendants of Joseph.

February 20, 1693-4, Simon Wainwright purchased of Mr. Peaslee one-fourth part of this mill for one hundred and ten pounds. The deed was signed

his
Joseph i Peasly
mark and seal.

her
Ruth X Peasly
mark and seal.

and witnessed by

his her
Josiah H Heath and Lidiah X G. Gage.
mark mark

and acknowledged before Nathaniel Saltonstall.

The next year, 1694, Mr. Peaslee and Joseph Greele agreed to build a grist mill on the same stream, nearer its mouth, but failed to do it. There was, however, at a later date, on this stream, a grist mill owned by the Peaslees.

This second Joseph is now Joseph Peaslee, Senior, while his eldest son has become Joseph Peaslee, Junior.

In 1699, when the town voted "that the new meeting-house should in future be the place where the people should worship God," "Joseph Peasley, &c., immediately moving that the town would allow him and others to meet at the meeting-house for and in their way of worship—which is accounted to be for Quakers—it was read and refused to be voted upon." Whereupon, not being allowed to worship with his sect in the new house, Mr. Peaslee opened his own doors, and in his home the Friends met, holding there the first meetings of the society in this part of the county. In this house crowds were wont to assemble at their quarterly meetings, coming from neighboring towns to listen to addresses made by the most notable speakers of the sect.

In 1700 Mr. Peaslee suffered considerable loss by fire, on which account the town "voted to give him his rates."

One of the many contentions about different parcels of land was settled in this manner: "We, whose names are underwritten, being with Tho. Whittier and Geo. Browne that day that Goodman Page, Sen., was buried, do affirm that Whittier and Browne did both affirm that the north corner of Goodman Peasley's ox-common lot was in the hollow that leads down to the Sour meadow, and both agreed to this—That it should come to the stump that stood in the hollow and there made a mark."

In 1711 Phillip Grele of Salisbury, administrator of the estate of his father, Andrew Grele, formerly of Haverhill, claimed that injustice had been done him in regard to the common lands. He sent a messenger from Salisbury with a summons for the commoners of Haverhill, but the messenger went no farther than the house of Joseph Peaslee, with whom the summons was left, and by him taken to the town meeting, where he delivered it with his explanation to the "Clerk of the Commons."

At this time, and for many years after, swine were allowed to run at large upon the common. An officer called "Hogreeve" had the over-

sight of them. Joseph Peaslee held this office in 1720. The next year he was constable. He is said to have been a physician. He was a "husbandman" or "yeoman"; was selectman of Haverhill in 1689, '90 and '96. In 1706 he was chosen one of a committee to examine the claims of persons to the common lands, of which he received a share in 1721. His wife Ruth died November 5, 1723.

In March, 1723-4, Mr. Peaslee purchased, for twenty pounds, land near the East meadow and land of Robert Clement, of "Mary Davis, widow and relique of Stephen Davis, of Haverhill, deceased."

Widow Mary Davis was the second wife of Joseph Peaslee. In a deed of land to his son Robert, January 26, 1724, the signature of Joseph Peasly was accompanied by that of

in r
"Mary ^W Peaslee, 'wife of ye above.'
mark

The witnesses were Nathaniel Peaslee and John Clement.

In a deed recorded December 16, 1709, Joseph Peaslee gave to his "sons, Joseph, Robert, John and Nathaniel, also two of my daughters, namely, Mary Peaslee, now Whittier, and Ruth Peaslee, now wife to Samuel Clement," the land in Amcsbury with a saw mill standing on said land, "called by ye name of ye Division of great Lott Country, which was laid out to the widow, Mary Peaslee, Deceased, late of Haverhill, Joseph Peaslee's Honord Mother," consisting of one hundred and eight acres: also another parcel of land "which I, ye sd Joseph Peaslee, purchased of Henry Blaisdell," of "160 acres bounded with ye Lott's originally of John Colbie's, Deceased, on ye south, and Will Huntington, Deceased, and on ye two other sides by highways" the two parcels of land: "saw-mill: all timber and wood standing thereon: all springs or streams of water, or any benefit or privileges belonging to the same," were given with the land.

John and Josiah Heatl, sons of Bartholemew, and administrators of the estate of their father, in a deed recorded March 6, 1695-6, sold to Joseph Peaslee land in the "lower plains bounded by ye river on ye south, a road now opened by ye house, ye land of Joseph Peaslee on ye west, the common and land of Ephraim Dayes on ye north," and land formerly belonging to Mr. Ward and others on the east.

In 1691 it was recorded that Joseph Peaslee and James Sanders, Sen., purchased land of Stephen Ford near East meadow: Samuel

Davis' line; Salisbury line and a great pine swamp, "excepting a highway as it is laid out for the town": also another piece of five acres and one-half of Daniel Ela, which joined land of Samuel Davis. Mr. Peaslee purchased of Elisha Davis all the rights of his grandfather, "James Davis, Sen., on the Merrimack" to "the 5th Division: all acres of commonage and common rights which were formerly granted him: reserving all lands already laid out." Of Samuel Colby, Sen., of Amesbury, he purchased "one-half a tract of land formerly bought of Robert Clement, abutting upon a highway leading to Jamaica path south-east, being that which I formerly dwelt upon, with three commonages and ye cow common."

To his son Joseph, Mr. Peaslee, for the sum of two hundred pounds, sold "First, one-half my home living: Second, Two common rights in Huckleberry Hill, lying between my own land and James Holgate's: Third, eight acres I bought of the commons, being one-half part."

To son Robert, for love and natural affection, due care and other consideration, he gave "all that one half of a tract of land which I bought of Samuel Colby formerly, excepting six acres at the North East end of ye same, formerly disposed of unto my son Joseph:" also for "twenty pounds in money and other considerations, three commonages which I formerly bought of Samuel Colby." He also gave to sons Robert of Haverhill and John of Amesbury the "5th Division of land in Haverhill Lot 26 in first range of lots," a tract of 180 acres.

The parcels of land bought of Stephen Ford and Daniel Ela, with the one-half land beyond East meadow river, were given to his son Joseph.

For fifty pounds he deeded to his son, Nathaniel Peaslee, and son-in-law, Ebenezer Eastman, "360 acres beyond Spickett River, the same tract of land granted unto my father, Joseph Peaslee, in 4th Division of town grants." To the same, for forty pounds, "in equal share between them, the upland and meadow and all common rights of lands and meadows formerly belonging to Job Clement of Dover." To his son Nathaniel "all right and title to the remaining part of my Addition Land, which belongs to my 3d Division land in the west end of Haverhill, near Spickett river." He had sold two hundred acres, and Nathaniel was to have the remainder.

Joseph Peaslee sold for six pounds, to Robert Hastings, "five acres in East meadow lying between another piece sold at the same time" and that of Lieut. George Brown, purchased of Joseph Peaslee.

April 27, 1724, Joseph Peaslee, "for parental Love and natural affection," gave to Nathaniel to enter "into full possession immediately after my decease," eight acres of land "betwixt that land which I have given to my son Joseph and Nathaniel's own land"; also "half an acre, together with ye Spring within that land, I have given to my son Joseph," another right in land joining his own, "and so much Land out of my Homestead as will make him up Twenty Acres," with "ye one Moiety or halfe part of ye remainder of my Homestead and Buildings." ("Saving always and hereby reserving unto myself the free use and Improvement of ye premises During my Natural Life").

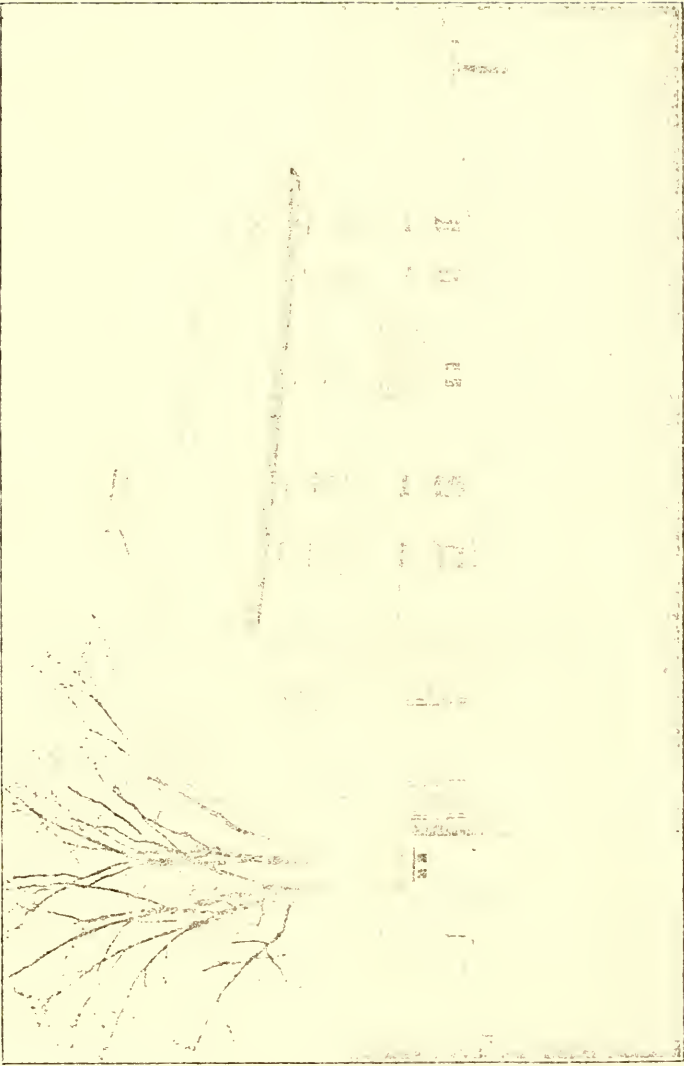
He gave to Joseph Whittier twelve acres formerly laid out to James Davis, Sen., deceased, and purchased by Mr. Peaslee "from his widow, Mary Davis," the bounds of which were a "highway leading to Job's Hole, the Digg down way"; Robert Clement's and Robert Hasting's land.

Joseph Peaslee died March 21, 1734-5.

It was against the principles of the Friends to place large stones at the graves of the departed, and, at that time, when some had offended in this way, the monthly meeting at Amesbury appointed a committee of three men who were to visit the offenders and "Discors" with them and report at the next meeting "yt so In Deavers may be used to hinder such things." For this reason the antiquarian must remain in ignorance of the individual resting places of the early Peaslees.

Mrs. Eliza Peaslee Kimball, great-great-grandchild of Joseph Peaslee, related to her children the tradition that there was held in the old house a funeral conducted by a woman, a very eloquent speaker, at which the attendance was so great that many were obliged to remain outside during the services. She also stated that there was a family burying ground in the corner of the field bordering the Twelve-rod-way and River road, all traces of which are now obliterated, a garden, shoe shop and highway occupying the corner lot.

In 1742, Mary Peaslee, widow of Joseph, conveyed to her "son-in-law, James Holgate, and daughter, Joanna Holgate, of Haverhill, all



THE HASTINGS-KELLY HOMESTEAD.

right, title and interest in all the land and stock in Haverhill that my husband, Stephen Davis, deceased, gave me power to Dispose of in his last Will and Testament."

"The name "James Davis, Sen., of Haverhill, upon the Merrimack," like that of his neighbor Peasley, occurs with puzzling frequency in the Essex Registry of Deeds, as well as in the early records of Haverhill. The Johns and Daniels have been and still are numerous. Ephraim, Samuel and William were common names a century and a half ago. In regard to John Davis and his wife, Jane Peasley, who removed to Dover, N. H., historians do not agree. Whether John had one wife or two: how many of the family were killed by Indians: and some other matters of interest, we leave to others to settle. One of their descendants, John Davis, settled in Rye, N. H., and had sons, William and Samuel, baptized in 1757 and 1761. He probably died soon after the latter date, as the daughter Hannah was, in 1763, presented for baptism by her mother, Eunice Davis. How many children were born before the family lived in Rye the records do not show. Ephraim Davis, in 1776, had a son Samuel, and in 1779 a son Ephraim.

Samuel Davis married January 20, 1782, Abigail Brown and had children, Betsey and Billy.

James Davis, Sen., had a wife Sissilla. The Haverhill records show that "The wife died before him, upon May 28, 1673. The man himself, being at 90, died Jan. 29, '78." His son James then became James Davis, Sen., as he had a son James, born October 3, 1660. John, another son, born June 30, 1664, "was killed at Canada 1690." Daniel, the next son, born September 19, 1666, "at Pemequid April 19, '89." Elisha, the youngest son of James and Elizabeth Davis, born August 30, 1670, married June 19, 1694, Grace Shaw. They had seven children: among them a James, Daniel and John.

James Davis of the third generation was administrator of the estate of his "brother, John Davis, deceased in ye Canada Expedition," and in order to raise money to pay a debt, sold a portion of John's land "near Spickett Hill" to his "brother-in-law, Robert Hastings, brick-layer," which transaction was placed on record January 31, 1711-12.

James Davis, son of James, Sen., died July 18, 1694. His wife, Elizabeth (Eaton), died January 31, 1683, and he married Mary, who was mentioned as his widow.

Sarah, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Johnson) Peaslee, born in Newbury September 20, 1642, married Thomas Barnard of Salisbury, one of the early settlers of that town, who crossed the river Powow to the western division. They had seven children—Sarah, born January 22, 1663-4; Joseph; Thomas; Hannah, born April 15, 1671; Samuel, born February 10, 1672-3; Nathaniel, born June 3, 1675, and Tristram. Joseph, one of the sons, married December 1, 1693, Mary Jewell. He died October 24, 1706, leaving six young daughters. Thomas and Sarah, in the "Queen's Province," gave a parcel of land to the widow, who afterwards married Thomas Hoyt.

A record of the Barnard families is given in Part One of "The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury," by David W. Hoyt.

CHAPTER II.

Mary Peaslee, daughter of Joseph, son of Joseph, married Joseph Whittier May 24, 1694. In "The Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier," by Samuel T. Pickard, the author says of Joseph, the youngest son of Thomas and Ruth (Green) Whittier, he "married, in 1694, Mary Peasley, grand-daughter of Joseph Peasley, the leading Quaker of the town. The house of Joseph Peaslee, Jr., the father of Mary, was built of brick brought from England, and is still standing near Rocks Village, in the East Parish. It was used as a garrison house in the French and Indian wars." From the same author we learn that after the death of his parents, Joseph Whittier purchased, of his brothers and sisters, the greater part of the estate which had been divided among the ten children. He and his wife Mary lived on the homestead, in the house built by Thomas Whittier in 1688. They had nine children. Joseph was born May 8, 1669. He died December 25, 1739. It appears that, in the first years of their married life, they lived elsewhere.

James Sanders, Sen., sold to Joseph Whittier fifty acres of land in Haverhill for thirty-five pounds. The deed conveying the same, "Whittier affirms was burnt up in the fire when Joseph Peaslee's house was burnt down;" and Sanders, "according to rules of justice and equity," renewed the deed, which was recorded in 1708. As the town gave Joseph Peaslee his rates, in the year 1700, as he "had suffered considerable loss by fire," it is probable that then the house containing Joseph Whittier's deed was destroyed. In regard to the location of this house of Joseph Peaslee, and upon which of his many tracts of land it stood, the records do not testify. The land bought by Whittier was "bounded upon a brook at East meadow." In 1730 Green Whittier, son of Joseph and Mary, was one of twelve men who petitioned the town for liberty to pay their minister's rates in Amesbury, instead of Haverhill. Ten of the other names were those of men known to have been living near the Peaslees.

The children of Joseph and Mary (Peaslee) Whittier were: Elizabeth, born Sept. 19, 1695; Green, born March 13, 1696-7; Joseph, born April 2, 1699; Ruth, born July 31, 1701; Richard, born September 20, 1703; Ebenezer, born December 29, 1704; Hannah, born June 2, 1707; Susanna, born July 25, 1709; and Joseph, born March 21, 1717.

Their youngest child, Joseph, married Sarah Greenleaf, whose West Newbury home was not opposite, but just across the Merrimac from the home of Joseph Peaslee. They had eleven children. John, born November 22, 1760, married October 3, 1801, Abigail Hussey, daughter of Samuel and Mercy (Evans) Hussey. Samuel was son of Joseph Hussey, born 1699, who married Elizabeth (Robinson) Tebbetts. Joseph, as given by Charles C. Whittier of Boston, was son of Richard Hussey of Dover, New Hampshire.

The children of John and Abigail Whittier were Mary, John Greenleaf, Matthew Franklin and Elizabeth Hussey.

According to the records of the selectmen, the house of Joseph Peaslee was built between the years 1669 and 1675. As the first child recorded in Haverhill was born July 19, 1674, it is evident that Joseph Peaslee and his family were living there at that time.

In reply to some questions by the writer, John G. Whittier wrote, March 24, 1890, in regard to this house:

"I have always understood that the house was built *before* that of my ancestor, which is now more than 200 years old. . . . I have always heard that the first Quaker meetings in this part of the county were held at Joseph Peasley's house. . . . I think there can be little doubt that Joseph, Jr., was the builder and owner.

I am thy friend,

JOHN G. WHITTIER."

History gives no account of massacres in this neighborhood: yet Indians came this way. Missiles were thrown at the house of Ephraim Davis, and an Indian was seen at one of its windows. They visited the home of Thomas Whittier. Relics were picked up not far from the garrison. A totem, tomahawk and arrow-heads were found in the vicinity and tradition tells of Indian graves beyond the old Quaker burying ground on the corner, bordered by the "Twelve-rod-way."

Joseph Peaslee, son of Joseph, son of Joseph, born July 19, 1674, married Elizabeth, the daughter of his neighbor, Robert Hastings, September 18, 1699. Their children were Daniel, born October 31, 1700; Joseph, born August 25, 1702; Elizabeth, born April 9, 1704, died August 10, 1720; Joshua, born December 27, 1707; Ruth, born June 22, 1710; Jerusha, born December 9, 1712; Esther, born April 9, 1715; and Sarah, born July 29, 1718.

Because of the number of Josephs succeeding each other, and carelessness in the important matter of dates, the three generations have been badly mixed. This third Joseph seems not to have been prominent in the affairs of the town, and of him but little can be learned from its records. The family removed to Methuen, and, from the records of that town we gain the following information regarding the family:

Daniel and his wife, Rebekah, had Joseph, born November 22, 1725; Rebekah, born July 18, 1728; Sarah, May 21, 1730; Nathaniel, born May 12, 1732; Abigail, born Sept. 16, 1734; Elizabeth, Feb. 2, 1736; Daniel and Joshua, "born between two and three o'clock in the afternoon" of April 14, 1740 (Joshua died April 30, 1740); and Hannah, born March 28, 1745.

Ruth, the eldest daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth, of Haverhill, was married to Abiel Kelly of Methuen by "the Rev. Mr. John Brown, pastor of the first church in Haverhill, June 4, 1728." Jerusha, the next daughter, married Oliver Sanders Feb. 3, 1736; Esther became the wife of William Sanders Nov. 16, 1736, and Sarah became Mrs. Samuel Sanders Oct. 26, 1738. The three last were married by Rev. Christopher Sargent of Methuen.

Joshua, of Methuen, the third son, was married by Rev. Mr. John Brown, of Haverhill, March 24, 1736-7, to Abiah Page. Their children were Asa, born Feb. 16, 1738; and Mehitabel, born March 10, 1739. "Joshua, ye husband, died Oct. 3, 1738," and the daughter Mehitabel was married by Rev. Christopher Sargent to Jonathan Tenney Oct. 1, 1755."

As Ruth was of Haverhill, in 1728, and the other children were of Methuen, in 1736, it appears that the family must have removed to that town between those dates. In 1714 a petition for a school in the north-western part of the town was signed by Joseph and Nathaniel

Peaslee, with others, in order "that their children might learn to read and write." The petition was not granted, as but few voted for it. The Peaslee children, however, in some way obtained the desired knowledge, and were not obliged, like the majority of the people of the time, to sign their names by marks.

Robert Peaslee, second son of Joseph, son of Joseph, born February 3, 1777, married, according to the town records, "Alicie Currier," December 16, 1701. Their children were Ann, born November 22, 1702, "died;" Mary, "died;" Samuel, born January 28, 1704-5; Ruth and Abigail, twins, born December 6, 1706; Amos, born October 3, 1708; Robert, born June 30, 1710; Alicie, born February 28, 1712; Anne, December 25, 1719. In the will of Robert Peaslee, dated December 16, 1741, the name of his wife was Anne, who had a son Ebenezer Sargent. They were probably married between the years 1712 and 1719.

Chase says that in 1711 John Swett "was appointed ferryman at the Rocks," and adds: "It is believed that there were then no more than two houses at that place." The name "Rocks" must have been used, in this instance, in its strictest sense, as it is now sometimes spoken of as "under the hill;" for there were certainly at this time houses "on the hill" and scattered along through this part of the town.

Besides those already mentioned, there was the house built by Ephraim Davis, son of Samuel, Sen., son of James Davis, Sen. Ephraim was born November 8, 1679, and married Hannah Eastman of Salisbury February, 1705. They had eight children—Amos, the youngest, born May 11, 1727, continuing on the home-stead after the death of his parents. James Sanders lived near the foot of the hill that now bears the family name. Robert Hunkins, who married Abiah Page, May 1, 1706, erected, in 1711, a house on the King's Highway about half way between Sander's hill and Peaslee's mill, which house, afterwards enlarged, remained in the Hunkins family until 1898.

With the late Indian massacres fresh in mind, the garrisons and houses of refuge were, in 1711, kept ready for occupation at a moment's notice. A large company of soldiers was armed and equipped with everything necessary to meet any emergency, even to snow-shoes, which had been ordered for them by the General Court in June, 1710. Robert Peaslee, Robert Hunkins, Ephraim and Samuel Davis were among the

snow-shoe men of the town, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Saltonstall.

In the year 1713 nineteen men in the north-easterly part of the town petitioned for a school-house and school near the house of Mr. John Whittier "on the common, between the bridges, or thereabouts, and between the house of Dan'l Ela and the Country road." Among the names of the signers are those of Robert Hastings, Robert Hastings, Jr., Joseph Whittier, John and James Sanders, Robert Hunkins and John Peasley. The petition was granted. The school-house to be "twenty feet long, sixteen wide, eight feet stud, and to be finished so as to be comfortable and convenient." Robert Hastings was one of the committee "to build and finish it." One of the bills of the town, in 1711, was to "Robert Hastings, Sen., for procuring lime and bringing it in place for laborers, and diet, and doing the mason work about the Parsonage house, for lathis, size bricks and clay for said work."

Robert Peaslee purchased of his brother John of Amesbury, mill-wright, one-half part of Lot No. 26 in the 5th Division of Haverhill land, the half consisting of one hundred and eighty acres; also one-half of Lot No. 20 of town grants of Amesbury, laid out in 1662 to Samuel Colby.

He bought of Nathaniel, his brother, "Yeoman, and Ebenezer Eastman, Innholder, for one hundred and sixty pounds, thirty-two acres on Job's Hill, and their rights in a cow common of Haverhill." He also bought of Ebenezer Eastman, for thirty-seven pounds, one right and a half in cow common and one-half of three other rights in cow common purchased by Eastman of Samuel Allen.

Of Samuel Allen, trader in Newbury, Robert bought, for thirty-five pounds, a piece of wood-land laid out to the right of John Ayer, Sen., in the cow common; this was "by way going from Jills Lake unto Corliss Meadow" and by "ye new way which goes from ye Digg down way over Corliss Hill."

In 1726 the General Court granted the township of "Pennycook," now Concord, N. H., to one hundred men, thirty-six of whom were from Haverhill. Robert and Nathaniel Peaslee were proprietors of this township, but did not settle there. Robert was selectman in 1712 and 1720. In his will, December 16, 1741, he bequeathed to his well beloved wife, Anne, "twenty pounds a year yearly, to be paid by my

executors hereafter named," and two cows to be kept both winter and summer "and also the Choyce of any one of the Roomes in my Dwelling House at her own Choyce; And as for what Estate ware brought by my said wife to me at the time of her marriage or afterwards, I do acquit ye Same unto Her to be Enjoyed as her own Free Estate forever." She was also to have the privilege to put anything in the cellar for her own use.

To his daughters Ruth and Abigail he bequeathed two hundred pounds apiece, to be paid by his executors within one year after his decease, "it being in full of their portion of my Estate with what they already received."

To his daughter "Allis" he gave five hundred pounds, and to Anne five hundred and fifty, to be paid to them within one year after his decease. He also gave to "ye s^d Allis and Anne ye Privilege of that Chamber of my Dwelling house wherein they now use or Improve, and also the bed and Bedding Belonging to s^d Roome:" also a young horse "Equally betwixt them Free and Clear and Freely and Clearly forever, and ye use of Roome, with the addition of firewood found and provided for them by my s^d executors, during only ye time they shall live a single life, and also Victuals and Drink during said term."

To Ebenezer Sargent, son of s^d wife, twenty pounds within two years after his decease, on condition that his wife accepted the will.

To his grandson, Robert Peaslee, the son of his son Amos, the sum of twenty pounds, to be paid by Samuel when Robert should be twenty-one; or, if he should die before that time, the amount was to be paid to Amos, for any one of his children "as he shall see meet."

The same amount was to be paid to Peaslee Collins, son of Abigail, within one year; or, at the age of twenty one, or, if he should not live to be of age, to be paid to the next surviving brother.

To all his other grand-children he gave forty shillings each, to be paid within two years.

He gave twenty pounds "to ye poore of ye People called Quakers, to be payed into the hands of Philip Rowel of Salisbury, to be payed by my Executor within two years after my Decease, to be Disposed of by said Rowel as he shall see fit."

"To my two sons, Samuel and Amos Peaslee, whom I do constitute and appoint my Executors, to this my last Will and Testament, I give unto them all that my Lands, Goods, Chattels and Tenements, Movable and Immovable, of what name and nature, besides what I have heretofore exercised in this my last Will, as there shall be by me left remaining after my decease. Leagusses and funeral Charges payed to Have and to Hold all in manner following :

"That is to say, if my said wife do not except of what I bequeathed unto her so as to suit her of any Rights of Dowry or Bills of Thirds to my said Estate, my meaning is that my s^d son Samuel shall have three hundred pounds more than my son Amos, but if my s^d wife do accept then they shall share Equally.

(Signed)

Robert peaslee.

Witnessed by

Nathaniel peaslee

his
William W George
mark

Orlando Bagley.

His will was proved February 23, 1742. When Robert died he left a widow, step-mother to his children, Anne (Sargent) Peaslee, who had a son by a former marriage. Mary (Davis) Peaslee, widow of Robert's father Joseph, was still living, step mother to Robert; having at least one daughter by a former marriage.

After the death of Samuel, son of Robert, in 1757, when the Thirds were set off to his widow Hannah, mention was made of privileges annexed to certain buildings in a former dower; and an item in a bill against the estate of Samuel was, "By charge in two Law suits and Before two setts by the old widow's Dower."

Alice Currier, born August 9, 1678, was the fifth child of Samuel and Mary (Hardy) Currier.

Robert Peaslee was at one time the owner of two slaves. Amos Peaslee, Amos Davis, John Sanders, John Swett, Joseph Greele and William Morse were also slave-owners in the East Parish, between the years 1754 and 1776.

John Peaslee, third son of Joseph, son of Joseph, born February 25, 1679, entered his intention of marriage with Mary Martin of Amesbury

March 22, 1704-5. They were married at the house of Thomas Barnard, in Amesbury, "where a meeting was held for the occasion," and forty-seven persons witnessed the ceremony. The children of this union, recorded in Haverhill, were Joseph, born March 7, 1705-6; John, born December 9, 1707; Sarah, born February 20, 1708-9; Jacob, May 11, 1710; Nathan, September 29, 1711; —, born April 2, 1713.

At a legal town meeting November 29, 1714, it was voted "that a committee of two be chosen to join with those that the town of Amesbury have, or may empower to settle the bound between the said towns of Haverhill and Amesbury on a north-west line from Holt's Rocks."

To the part of this new town of Amesbury, now Newton, N. H., John Peaslee removed. It is said that Joseph Peaslee built for his son John a house a few miles beyond the mill at the head of East meadow river, on the King's highway, near its junction with the Plaistow road, where he settled about 1713. His son Moses was born there, in 1714. Mr. George F. Beede of Freemont, N. H., who has records of many Peaslee families, gives to John and Mary, in addition to those already named, "Mary, born in 1709; Ruth, 1712; Ebenezer, born in 1716 or '17, who married June 23, 1744, Lydia Weed." The one unnamed in Haverhill record was David; James was born in 1715. If Mr. Beede's record is correct, it would give one child a year for nine successive years. As the name of Mary is not in Haverhill record, and she was not married until 1745, it seems more likely that she was born in 1719.

Mary Martin was a grand-daughter of George Martin, who married for his second wife Susanna, the daughter of Richard North, in 1646. After the death of her husband, Widow Martin was accused of witchcraft, tried, convicted and executed. The story of the grief and sufferings of her daughter is told in the beautiful and touching ballad, "The Witch's Daughter," by Whittier. A full account of the trial is given in Merrill's History of Amesbury.

From New Hampshire State Papers, Vol. 13, the information is obtained that, in 1747, a petition was presented to the Selectmen of "Salisbury and Amesbury District in regard to a highway or road laid out in 1699." This was signed by John Peaslee; Joseph; John Peaslee, Jun; David; Moses; James and Nathan Peaslee.

Joseph Peaslee, son of John, son of Joseph, son of Joseph, married Martha Hoag. Their children, recorded in Amesbury, were Nathaniel,

born May 27, 1731; Jonathan, born December 10, 1732; John, February 27, 1734-5; Mary, born December 9, 1736; and Ruth, January 14, 1738.

John Peaslee, Jun., second son of John, had a wife Lydia. Their daughter Sarah was born May 11, 1734; their son Timothy, August 20, 1735; and John, February 18, 1736.

Jacob Peaslee, third son of John, married Huldah Brown of Kingston, December 5, 1735.

"James Peaslee of Amesbury and Abigail Johnson of Haverhill were married Jan. 13, 1742, before Orlando Bagley, Justice a Peace."

"David Peaslee entered his intention of marriage with Rachel Straw, both of Amesbury, ye 15 Jan., 1742.

"David Peasley and Rachel Straw of Amesbury were married Feb. ye 9, 1742, before Orlando Bagley, Justice a Peace."

"Moses Peaslee of Amesbury and Mary Gove of Hampton were married together Dec. ye 15, 1742, before Orlando Bagley."

John and Mary Peaslee must have been kept busy with plans for their children, when three sons were married in one year.

Mary Peaslee and Eliphalet Hoyt were married August 1, 1745.

The children of Moses and Mary (Gove) Peaslee were Jonathan, born Oct. 23, 1743; Mary, born Sept. 15, 1745; Moses, born Nov. 20, 1747; Ebenezer, born Dec. 12, 1749; John, born Feb. 4, 1752; Patience, born March 18, 1755; Humphrey, born Apr. 18, 1757; Elizabeth, born Apr. 18, 1762; Anna, born June 20, 1765; Obadiah, born August 12, 1767.

Other information of the family is obtained from the volume of State Papers previously mentioned.

Joseph Peaslee, son of John, was one of the selectmen in 1768. His son John was constable the same year. John Peaslee and his children were Quakers, and there were contentions and dissensions in the town meetings between them and others. In 1769 John Peaslee, the constable, called the meeting to order, and nominated for moderator, his father, Joseph Peaslee, which was negatived. He then nominated Moses Peaslee. There was great confusion, with unnecessary anger, and the meeting was declared to be illegal.

Mr. Beede gives to "Joseph and Martha, twelve children: to John and Lydia, ten. Jacob, who settled in Kingston, died, leaving one son. Nathan Peaslee married Lydia Gove and had nine children: Moses and Mary Gove had ten; James and Abigail had seven; and David and Rachel Peaslee had eleven children." making sixty grand-children, by their sons, to John and Mary Peaslee. Their descendants are found in "Newton, Plaistow, Kingston, Danville, Pittsfield, Sandwich, Weare, Deering, Henniker, Sutton and adjoining towns, Canada, Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey and many of the Western and Pacific states."

Colonel Nathaniel Peaslee, fourth son of Joseph, son of Joseph, like his father and grandfather, was actively engaged in the business of the town, and was one of its wealthiest and most influential men. "He was Representative in 1737, '39 to '42, 1746 to '49 and 1752, '53. In 1739 he was one of the committee of the General Court on the boundary line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire." He married Judith Kimball. Their children were Hannah, born May 1, 1703; Mehitabel, born Jan. 18, 1704-5, died May 27, 1766; Nathaniel, born Apr. 13, 1707; Abigail, Sept. 29, 1709; Susanna, May 10, 1712; Mary, Oct. 5, 1714, died Feb. 8, 1716-17; Jonathan, born June 15, 1720, died March 5, 1721.

In 1723 Abigail and Susanna Peaslee, with five other women, petitioned the town for liberty "to erect a seat or pew over the head of the stairs," in the meeting-house, "not damnifying the stairway." Their request was granted. At the same time Nathaniel Peaslee and others, "having their habitations so distant from the meeting-house that, at any time being belated, we cannot get into any seat, but are obliged to sit squeased on the stairs," asked permission to erect a pew in a vacant place "betwixt the front pew and the pew on the side gallery over the head of the stairs." As the daughters of Nathaniel Peaslee were at this time aged respectively fourteen and eleven years, they were, according to modern ideas, very young women.

Hannah, the eldest child, married Joseph Badger, a merchant of Haverhill, and father of Gen. Joseph Badger, of Gilmanston, N. H., born in Haverhill January 11, 1722.

Susanna married Rev. Christopher Sargent, of Methuen, January 22, 1729-30, and was the mother of Hon. Nathaniel Peaslee Sargent, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.

The historians of Concord, New Hampshire, and of Haverhill, Massachusetts, state that "Capt. Ebenezer Eastman married March 4, 1710, Sarah Peaslee, of Haverhill, daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Peaslee;" evidently an error, as the eldest child of Nathaniel was not born until 1703. Sarah Peaslee, daughter of Joseph and sister of Nathaniel, married Capt. Ebenezer Eastman.

Nathaniel Peaslee, Jr., son of Nathaniel and Judith, married Lydia White November 16, 1727. They had a child, Abigail, born October 2, 1728, died October 17, 1729. "Nath'l Peaslee, ye husband, died September 9, 1730."

Abigail, the fourth child of Nathaniel and Judith, married James White April 9, 1728, and died May 27, 1730.

Mrs. Judith Peaslee died August 15, 1741, and, a few months later, Rev. Christopher Sargent, of Methuen, had the pleasure of uniting in marriage his father-in-law, then nearly sixty years of age, and Abiah Swan, of that town, January 8, 1742. Their child, Abigail, was born May 2, 1743, and the mother died the 11th of the same month and year. Abigail, the daughter, married Humphrey Moody and had nine children. Humphrey and Nathaniel Peaslee Moody enlisted in the army and served three years. William, son of Humphrey, was a graduate of Dartmouth College. Mrs. Moody married for her second husband Gen. James Brickett.

Mr. Peaslee, not discouraged by the loss of two wives, chose a third, widow Martha Hutchins. They were married June 20, 1745. Hannah, their daughter, born November 5, 1746, was named for his eldest daughter, Mrs. Joseph Badger, the mother of seven children, who had died January 15, 1734. Ruth, the other child of this union, born April 8, 1749, married Joshua Sawyer.

Edward Flint of Salem married Mrs. Lydia Peaslee, of Haverhill, widow of Nathaniel Peaslee, Jr., November 22, 1733. Lydia died August, 1741.

Colonel Nathaniel Peaslee was a merchant, as well as farmer. He was selectman in 1716, '18, 1734, '35, '39, '41, '42, '46, '47, '49 and 1752. He served the town as moderator many years. He died in 1775, in the ninety-third year of his age.

Nathaniel Peaslee, in his will, July 28, 1768, after commending his soul to God, desired for his body a decent Christian burial. He gave

to his "well beloved wife, Martha, the improvement of the south-easterly part of the house in which I now live, called the Parlour and Parlour chamber, and Garret overhead and Celler under, also well and wood yard as she shall have occasion. Also the Improvement of the west room in the Red house in which William Page now lives, and the chamber over it, and the cellar under it, and also the well and wood yard as she shall have occasion, and the Improvement of my barn on the North side of the Road, where the Cyder mill now stands, and her sixth part of the profits and clear annual Income of the several parcels of Land which I shall hereafter mention and give to my children and grand-children for and during the term she shall continue my widow, after debts and charges are paid and one-fifth part over of all the funeral charges I shall die possessed of."

To his daughter Susanna, the wife of Rev. Christopher Sargent, of Methuen, he gave one hundred and fifty pounds to be paid in two years after his decease, and one-fifth of personal estate after debts and funeral charges were paid, also a tract of land "near the dwelling of Capt. Richard Saltonstail, called the River Lott."

To "daughter Abigail, the wife of Humphrey Moody, that Tenement where Zachariah Huncford" dwelt: also land bought of Capt. Daniel Davis on the same side of the way, and about ten acres of pasture on the other side of the way, and all the pasture adjoining the land bought of Davis, and two other small tracts of land—one east of the new barn, the other where Augustin George lived—with the said house: also another piece of about "fifteen acres at Corly Hill pasture, so called," and one-fifth part of personal property after debts and funeral charges were paid.

To daughter "Ruth, the wife of Joshua Sawyer, and her heirs, all the land I lately purchased of the heirs of my brother, Joseph Peaslee, lying on the west side of the road that leads to Mulliken's Ferry;" also about an acre and a half of land on the same side of the road near the ferry: ten acres at the upper end on the other side of the road "near the brick house, with the brick house thereon:" half of land on Huckleberry or Pine Hill, and personal property as the others.

To "Hannah Peaslee and her heirs the Tenement I bought of Nathaniel Sanders, with the buildings thereon and the adjoining lands now improved by William Page: thirty acres in one piece, half the land at Huckleberry or Pine Hill, and another piece on east side of the road leading to Mullikin's ferry."

To his grandson, Joseph Badger, he gave "Turkey Hill pasture, fifty acres, near the meeting-house in the east precinct of Haverhill." He was to pay to daughter Sargent of Methuen thirty pounds in one year after the death of his grandfather. To grand-daughter, Judith Badger, the wife of Nathaniel Cogswell, thirty pounds.

To Nathaniel Peaslee Sargent "the Tenement where I now dwell containing the lands that were given to me by my father and those I lately bought of Capt. Daniel Davis on the same side of the way," (excepting what he had given to Abigail) "with all the buildings thereon and all other appurtenances belonging; also fifteen acres in New Hampshire near Brandy Brow," he paying the legacy of one hundred pounds to his mother, Susanna Sargent. Nathaniel Peaslee Sargent was to be sole executor of the will.

Considering the many sales, gifts, purchases and exchanges, of land and buildings, among the members of the Peaslee family, it is not surprising that Mr. Peaslee should have found it necessary to add to the will a lengthy codicil giving explanations and corrections in regard to the situation and bounds of several parcels of land. The estate was appraised by Ephraim Elliott and John Whittier, and valued at five thousand three hundred and sixty pounds. The road leading to "Mulliken's ferry," mentioned in the will, is the old road leading from East Broadway, near the home of Mr. James Cushing, by the brick-yard, to the place afterwards known as Chain ferry, where now is Groveland bridge.

The first church of Methuen, formed October 29, 1729, had for its first pastor Rev. Christopher Sargent. In January, 1730, the new society petitioned the proprietors of the common lands of Haverhill "and that part of Methuen formerly contained within ye ancient bounds of Haverhill" for land for a parsonage. The land was granted to the society; also another piece to Mr. Sargent, the minister.

The name of Nathaniel Peasly Sergeant is in "The Alarm List" of Haverhill in 1757. He graduated from Harvard College in 1750, was an able lawyer of Haverhill, a "delegate to the Provincial Congress which met at Cambridge, in February, 1775, and, in 1776, was a member of the House of Representatives." He was afterwards Chief Justice, and by his integrity and ability won the respect of all.

The following paragraph concerning Gen. Joseph Badger of Gilmanston, N. H., is from the "History of Haverhill:"

“His whole life was marked by wisdom, prudence, integrity, firmness and benevolence. Great consistency was manifested in all his deportment.”

He took an active interest in the establishment of common schools, and was one of the founders of the Academy in Gilmanton. He was appointed Brigadier-General June 27, 1780. “He was a member of the Provincial Congress, also of the Convention which adopted the Constitution. In 1784 he received the commission of Justice of the Peace and Quorum throughout the state.” He died April 4, 1803.

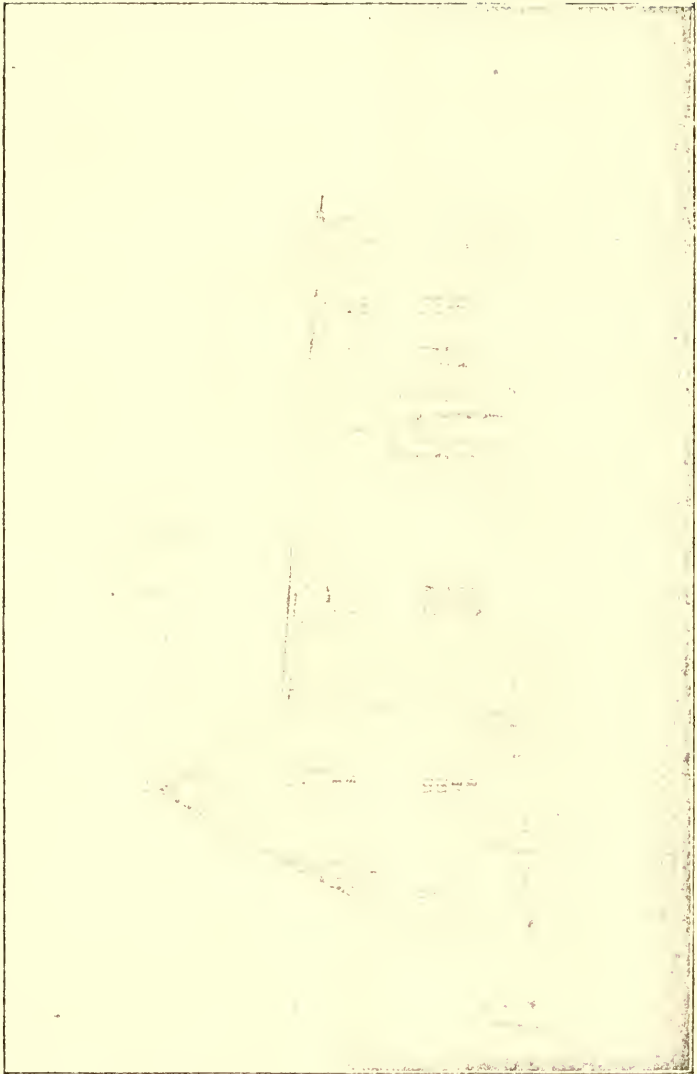
Judith Badger, the sister of Gen. Joseph, married Nathaniel Cogswell, a merchant of Haverhill, and was the mother of nineteen children, eight of them serving in the Revolutionary war. One son, Hon. Thomas Cogswell, married his cousin, the daughter of Gen. Joseph Badger. He at first lived in Haverhill; afterwards in Gilmanton, N. H., where he was a prominent man in the town. He was a colonel in the Revolutionary army. “In 1784 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until his decease, in 1810.”

Nathaniel Peaslee Sargent married Rhoda Barnard, by whom he had eight children.

Rhoda, the wife, died October 9, 1774. Mr. Sargent married second Mary ——.

“Madam Mary died January 30, 1805.

Nathaniel Peaslee Sargent died October, 1791.”



THE DAVIS HOMESTEAD.

CHAPTER III.

Ruth, the sixth child of Joseph and Ruth (Barnard) Peaslee, married Samuel Clement July 11, 1705. Their children were Timothy, born August 2, 1706; Ruth, born March 3, 1708-9; Hannah, born March 26, 1711; Moses, born March 26, 1713; Sarah, born May 29, 1715; Susanna, born April 24, 1718; Marian, born September 16, 1720; Abner, born April 1, 1723; and Samuel, born May 2, 1730, died December 24, 1803.

"Samuel Clement, the husband, died October 3, 1754."

Timothy Clement married, April 1, 1725, Hannah Ford. There were nine children, several of whom were "born on ye line of town Number 5, joining upon Rumford." Moses married "Pheby Wellen" October 22, 1734. Five of their eight children died young. "Dea. Moses, the husband, died 1788."

"Samuel Clement, 3^d, married December 13, 1750, Anne Gage." They had five children.

Moses Clement, Jr., son of Moses, married May 17, 1780, Sarah Bailey of Newbury. They had ten children.

Sarah, youngest daughter of Joseph Peaslee, son of Joseph, born August 15, 1690, married Captain Ebenezer Eastman, one of the petitioners for the township of Pennycook, at whose tavern in Haverhill the committee of the General Court met for the examination of persons to be admitted as settlers of the new town.

Francis M. Abbott, in the *New England Magazine*, writing of the early settlement of Concord, states that "each settler was to pay five pounds, and agree to build a good house for his family within three years." They also agreed to build a block house forty feet by twenty-five, to be used as a garrison and meeting-house. "They were to pay all expenses of cutting a road through the wilderness, and of laying the lots by surveyors and chainmen."

Captain Eastman and Sarah Peaslee were married March 4, 1710. When they left Haverhill for their new home they had six children. "Ebenezer was born September 5, 1711; Phillip, born November 13, 1713; Joseph, born June 10, 1715; Nathaniel, born March 16, 1717; Jeremiah, born August 25, 1719; Obadiah, born December 11, 1721; Ruth, born January 17, 1729; Moses, born Feb. 28, 1732."

This is the record given by Chase, which differs from the town records of Haverhill. He also states that, "According to tradition, Ebenezer Eastman's team—six yoke of oxen, with a cart, was the *first* that crossed the wilderness from Haverhill to Pennycook."

Mr. Abbott writes: "The first settler of Concord is conceded to have been Ebenezer Eastman of Haverhill, Massachusetts, who brought his family here in 1727."

The Peaslees of this generation, riding in luxurious cars or wheeling over smooth roads, cannot realize the hardships through which these pioneers passed on their way to their new home. One virtue they must have possessed—the virtue of patient endurance. Our necessities were their luxuries. They could not have comprehended even the names of our common luxuries. They had neither tea nor coffee. They had no Christmas trees: no ten-cent stores: no kerosene: not even matches. They were not brought up on Huyler's Chocolates. They had molasses, wheat, rye and Indian meal, beef, pork, pease, beans, and Captain Eastman had rum, for, with it, he overcame the scruples of a friendly Indian, who protested against the cutting of his grass by the Captain and his boys. The drink put the Indian in so generous a mood that he allowed the grass to be cut and taken away, and was ever after on good terms with the Eastman family. They did not always have even tallow candles for use in the winter evenings, but used pine chips and torches, or the light of the great kitchen fireplaces. They rode horse-back or in clumsy, slow-going ox-carts. A few wealthy ones had riding chairs. An old sign, which, upside down, formed a step of an unused flight of stairs in the garrison, brought to light a dozen or more years ago, gives evidence that one was in the Peaslee family. The sign bore, in beautiful, finely-formed gilt letters, the words:

To : be : Let :
Horses : & Chair :

Dim, covered with dirt, with other words of a later date painted over them, and apparent only after vigorous scrubbing with soap and sand. Who knows but it was the sign of Ebenezer and Sarah (Peaslee) Eastman, used at their tavern, in Haverhill, before they left for Pennycook? However hospitable its inmates, there is nothing in history or tradition to indicate that the house of Joseph Peaslee was ever a public house.

In the year 1757 Haverhill had fifteen calashes, but no coaches, chariots, chaises or riding chairs: at least none given in the official returns. The tax laid upon carriages by the government in 1753 might have had something to do with the scarcity of them.

When Capt. Ebenezer and Madam Sarah Eastman settled in Pennycook grocers did not take orders and deliver goods: so, when Madam needed molasses, her husband made a journey on horse-back to Haverhill, and purchased a barrel, which he lashed on to a contrivance fastened to his horse, and started back. While ascending a steep hill, after crossing Suncook river, the rigging gave way: the barrel rolled off and down the hill, striking a tree, and was dashed in pieces, while the molasses covered the ground, and the poor fellow had to go home without the precious sweet.

Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, in "The History of Concord" gives many interesting anecdotes of the family. A report of the settlement in 1731 stated that Capt. Eastman and his boys had broken up, cleared and mowed more than eighty acres of land, and "had very considerable buildings, out-houses, barns, etc.," and "had paid the charges of building a corn mill."

In the year 1746 "houses not connected with garrisons were deserted by their owners and the furniture removed. Men went forth to their labor in companies, always carrying their arms with them, and one or more of the number placed on guard."

Their garrisons or forts were made of hewn logs laid flat upon each other, the ends inserted in grooves cut in large posts, erected at each corner. The logs were raised high in order to protect the dwellings, and in the corners were boxes where sentinels kept watch. The house of Capt. Eastman was within one of these garrisons, and in it thirteen other families were "ordered and staid." Indians were in the vicinity and the settlers were greatly alarmed. August 11, 1746, five men were killed. At the time of this massacre "Capt. Eastman and his

family were in a garrison on the east side of the river, where, subsequently, he erected on or near the spot, a large two-story house." Mr. Eastman died July 28, 1748, before the house was finished. Six sons of Ebenezer and Sarah Peaslee Eastman settled in Concord, and were useful and prominent citizens. Their descendants are very numerous.

Capt. Joseph Eastman, third son of Capt. Ebenezer, had command of a company of sixty-five men in Col. Joseph Blanchard's regiment, which was raised for the expedition against Crown Point in 1755. Philip, the second son, was "a man of great resolution and force; of sound judgment, and took a leading part in the business of the Proprietors, and in town affairs." He married Abiah, a sister of the Bradleys, killed in the massacre of 1746. Their son Jonathan "had but little early education, but learned to write on birch-bark, and in later years was well posted in all political and public matters."

Stilson, grandson of Ebenezer and Sarah Eastman, was a ranger under Lieut. John Stark, in the fight near Ticonderoga, in January, 1757. He was also in the Revolution. At the age of eighty "he was converted under the preaching of Rev. Jotham Sewall. When ninety years old he would ride on horse-back, with his wife behind him, several miles to meeting." He died in 1837, in the 100th year of his age.

Nathaniel Eastman, fourth son of Capt. Ebenezer and Sarah, was in Col. Williams' regiment of twelve hundred men at Lake George. Eastman, though wounded in the knee, continued to fight, until, by the retreat of the troops, he was left nearly alone; but finally escaped through the woods and joined his company.

Eleanor, the daughter of Ebenezer Eastman, Jr., married William Phillips, by whom she had one son. She joined the Shakers, and died in Canterbury November 17, 1816.

Ruth, the only daughter of Capt. Ebenezer and Sarah (Peaslee) Eastman, when but thirteen years of age, married Dr. Ezra Carter, a native of South Hampton, N. H., who went to Pennecook a short time before his marriage in 1742. He was the first regular physician of the town; "was of a kind and benevolent temper, of quick wit and pleasantry in conversation, and a general favorite among all classes of people." The historian adds: "It is more a subject of regret than wonder that his convivial habits were unfavorable to long life." He died at the age of 48, September 17, 1767. Ruth married second Samuel Fowler of Boscawen, N. H.

Peaslee Eastman, son of Stilson, was with Col. Thomas Stickney at Rhode Island in the Revolutionary War.

Capt. and Mrs. Ebenezer Eastman were in Pennycook seven years before the death of Mrs. Eastman's father, Joseph Peaslee, of Haverhill.

After the death of Robert Peaslee, Samuel and Amos desired Richard Hazzen to make a division and partition, of land and premises, willed to them by their father, which he did, setting off to Samuel Peaslee thirty-nine and a half acres of land lying on the "northern side of Jamaica path (and exclusive of One Acre of Land where the Brick House now stands, which is set off to Amos)."

To Amos Peaslee, north of Jamaica path and adjoining Samuel's land, "first one acre of land with the Brick House standing thereon, which fronts southerly on Jamaica path ten rods and runs back north-west sixteen poles both sides of a length and of equal width from end to end." With this acre, with "the Brick House standing thereon," he had about forty acres adjoining Samuel's land, and running on Jamaica path one hundred and two poles.

To Samuel twenty-five acres and one-fourth betwixt Jamaica path and Merrimaac river, bounded twenty-eight poles on Jamaica path, south-east twenty poles, south-west nine poles and four feet, south east ninety-five poles to bank of the Merrimac, thence twenty-four poles to Twelve-rod-way and by it to first bound.

Amos was to have twenty-nine and one-fourth acres adjoining this piece, "four acres of which he was to have had by deed before his Father's Death." This was twenty-one rods and twelve feet on the river, and was bounded by John Morrison and William Guie (Guy Blay).

Samuel was to have fifty-seven and a half acres, "being one-half that Farine where the Grist Mill stands on a Small River commonly called the East Meadow river, a little below Clement's Bridge: bounded forty-six poles on Jamaica path" and by "Country Road north-east forty-six poles to the way that leads out of the Country Road to Robert Hastings's House," reserving one-half of the grist mill. Amos was to have the other half of the mill and the same number of acres, eighty-four poles on Jamaica path, and to land of Joseph Greely, Jun.

Job's Hill pasture was divided, giving forty-four acres to each brother, while Amos was to have the "whole of that land which the

Proprietors of Haverhill gave to the Testator, adjoining land of Amos, a tract of twenty-three acres."

A farm in Amesbury of one hundred acres, near Francis Chase's, was also divided between them.

The brothers were satisfied with this division and quit claimed the several tracts of land to each other according to law.

Samuel and his wife Hannah lived in the two-story house now unoccupied, the property of Mr. R. A. Chase. His "Homestead Living" extended from Jamaica path north and north-west upon the Twelve-rod-way, one hundred and eight rods, and from the same path (now East Broadway) by the Twelve-rod-way to the river, one hundred and fourteen rods. Besides the land given him by his father, he had seven acres of fresh meadow near Country Bridge and about "two acres of flats on Plumb Island in Newbury."

The following receipt was dated March 22, 1757 :

"Then Received of Amos Davis one pound Lawful Money, Dews and Demands, or whatever shall appear from the beginning of the world to the date hereof. I say Received by me,

SAMUEL PEASLEE."

Samuel died before September 5 of the same year.

The committee appointed to set off the widow's thirds laid out to her "about twenty acres of the homestead, on the north-west side of Jamaica path, with the buildings thereon, except the westerly half of the Dwelling House to the middle of the chimney, the whole sheep house, and two-thirds of the Scyder House, with liberty of passing and repassing from the Scyder House to the Road," and from the road to the dwelling, with a privilege for laying of wood and "liberty of water at the well," which was reserved to the heirs. The widow was to have the "easterly end of the barn and third part of the length thereof, with one-third part of the barn-yard." She had nineteen acres of Eastman pasture, eleven of Job's hill pasture, and the seven acres of meadow at Country Bridge.

The remainder of the real estate was divided, by another committee, into five parts, "equal for quantity and quality, butted, bounded and numbered from one to five."

Lot No. 1, containing ten acres adjoining the Third, was settled to Amos Peaslee, brother of Samuel, and his heirs.

No. 2, containing about eleven acres adjoining lot No. 1, was settled on Hopewell Stanton, of Cartwright County, in North Carolina, and on her heirs as the right of her mother, Ruth Borden, deceased, who was sister to Samuel.

Lot No. 3, consisting of twenty-eight acres "south-east of Jamaica path, and the westerly half of the dwelling house, from the middle of the chimney," became the property of Alice, the wife of Thomas Blaney of Salem, in county of Essex.

Lot No. 4—forty acres in Eastman pasture, seven in Job's hill pasture, and one-half the orchard in Newbury—went to Anne Bagnell, another sister of the deceased Samuel.

Abigail, the wife of Eleazer Collins of Boston, received Lot No. 5, twenty-three acres in Job's hill pasture.

The Inventory of the Estate is a lengthy document, but interesting, giving valuable hints of the fashions and customs of the times. The brothers, Samuel and Amos, owned together fourteen heifers, six cows and eighteen sheep. Samuel had one horse and two swine.

In the list are 4,738 feet of lumber and boxes, 3,003 feet of matchable pine boards, 368 feet of pine plank, "500 hard white oke Barrel Staves and Headen," 690 of clapboards, 3 cords of wood, salt hay, and "about ten lodes of Eng. and Fresh hay," "16 bushels of oats not thrashed," seven of rye, eighty-five bushels of Indian corn in the field, flax from the swingle not dressed, about ten bushels of potatoes in the ground, and "apples in Orchard to make about 30 Barrells Cyder."

There were sides of leather, tanned calfskin, remnants of deer skin, fetters, sheep shears, hand saws, stub scythes, saddles, bridles and stirrups, one iron tooth-harrow, "plows, hows," sleds, spurs, thirteen horn beam tubs, nine hogsheds, eleven half hogsheds, two meal barrels, seventeen dry barrels, and fifty-one cider barrels, among the many outside articles and implements.

In the house there was one "time peace," and one "cheas pres;" there were six best black chairs, six next best, thirteen old black, four white chairs, two great chairs: oval, round and square tables: chests and cases of drawers; large and small looking-glasses: "punch bole

and three glass Bekers :” warming-pan : “Delph” plates and pitchers ; four large Delph platters : ten cups and saucers : “chaffing dish, pewter platters, twenty-two pewter plates :” basins, porringers and mugs of the same material, and seventeen pewter spoons.

There was “Best Bead No. 1, with under Bead, one quilt, two Blankitts, two Tow and Lining (linen) sheets : two Pillows and Tow and Lining Cases, with green and cherry curtains and Coverlead, one Bolster, Bead Stead and Cord, with iron rod.”

“Best Bead No. 2” had about the same furnishings, with a silk quilt and “red cherry” curtains. There were three other beds, with all the bedding and curtains.

The women, then, were not the only ones who decked themselves in gay apparel. Samuel was the owner of seventeen coats and jackets, four night jackets, nine pair of breeches, eleven pair of stockings, white linen shirts, new pumps, five canes, mittens, hats, caps and gloves. He had a “Blew Plush Jacket” and “Green Plush Breeches.” Some of the garments were red and white twilled, some of grey cloth, others of “Blew,” and some of white.

Books were not so easy to be obtained as clothing. He owned one Bible and part of another, four bound and four paper covered books.

The coffin and grave of Samuel Peaslee, whose estate was valued at one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine pounds and ten shillings, cost eighteen shillings, while the clothing for the widow cost eight pounds.

Widow Hannah (Purington) Peaslee, of Salisbury, made her will March 24, 1767, which was proved September 28, 1770. She bequeathed her household goods and some money to her relatives, and five hundred pounds to the Society of Friends.

April 30, 1771, a committee was appointed to “apprize and divide all that part of the Real Estate of Samuel Peaslee, late of Haverhill, deceased, that was set out to his Widow as her Right of Dower in said Estate.”

Lot No. 1, set out by the committee, contained “two and one fourth acres, bounded by Jamaica path ; Twelve-rod-way ; land to be No. 2, and Ephraim Elliott : also the easterly halt of the dwelling house, and one-third of the barn standing on said land : and also one-third of a large barn standing on Ephraim Elliott’s land, with the privileges

thereto annexed, when the thirds were set off, all which were to share." This went to Alice Blaney.

Lot No. 2 was twelve acres in Job's Hill pasture, and one acre of the homestead joining No. 1, and became the property of Elijah Collins.

Anne Bagnell had Lot No. 3, twenty acres of Eastman pasture and two and a fourth acres of homestead next to No. 2.

Amos, the brother, had the next parcel of homestead, and seven acres of meadow, while Hopewell Stanton had Lot No. 5, four and a half acres in the north-western part of the homestead.

The land of his grandmother, Mary Peaslee, in Amesbury, which Robert had purchased of his brother, John Peaslee, he had given to Samuel. Gideon George had bought a piece of Samuel's homestead bordering the Merrimac, so the land divided among his heirs after his decease was not all that was originally in possession of Samuel Peaslee.

Amos Peaslee, four years younger than his brother Samuel, married Elizabeth Sargent December 12, 1732. Their children were: Content, born December 12, 1733; Robert, born September 4, 1735; Anne, born April 8, 1740; Zacheus, born June 19, 1743; and Alice, born September 13, 1745.

After the death of his father, Amos lived in the brick house built by his grandfather, Joseph Peaslee. In 1757 Amos Peaslee was of Newbury. He sold to his son Robert for two hundred seventeen pounds the homestead, containing forty-six and a half acres of land, the bounds beginning at an elm tree at Jamaica path, running north-west one hundred twelve rods: thence south by heirs of Anthony Colby, deceased, about fifteen and a half poles: thence sixty poles to a maple tree: thence twenty-seven poles: thence west by Colby's land, by the fence sixty-seven poles: "thence south by my own land through a pond near the middle thereof about thirty-five poles to a white birch tree" by the said Jamaica path: "thence north-east by said path as it formerly went one hundred and thirty-one poles to bound first mentioned, together with all the privileges and appurtenances."

This was recorded April 27, 1762.

The same tract of forty-six acres was bought back by Amos Peaslee, from his son Robert, the next year, for one hundred and fifty pounds,

the transaction being witnessed by Isaac Merrill and Ephraim Elliott. Amos Peaslee was then of Dover, New Hampshire.

On the same day, April 27th, 1763, Amos Peaslee, of Dover, N. H., sold to Ephraim Elliott, of Kingston, N. H., for six hundred and sixty-six pounds, a "parcel or land in Haverhill, It being part of my late Honor'd Father, Robert Peasley's Homestead Living, & is my Homestead Living, or was my late Homestead Living, of one hundred fifty acres more or less, bounded as follows, viz: On the south-west corner by a highway called Jamaica path about one rod to the south-west of a grate Black Oake Tree now standing to a Post in the fence by s^d highway or path: thence running north-west by land set out by a Comety to Samuel Peaslee's widow to land of Richard Colby to a stake near a Walnut Tree marked: thence south-west and several other points by land of said Richard and Isaac Colby as the fence goes between them and me, 'till it comes to the East Meadow fence to land and Meadow of Lucis Page, thence running on Page's line south about twenty rods to a Black Oak Tree: thence east and south on land of Joseph Kelly 'till it comes to Jamaica path aforementioned: thence east by s^d path 'till it comes to the post in the fence first mentioned bound." Also salt meadow lying in Newbury at Plum Island river, "My hole right I have in s^d Island & Flatts," also the right to "several little Islands adjacent."

"I sell but Two-Thirds of the grate Barn on s^d land that was my Brother Samuel Peaslee's, & I sell to Ephraim Elliott two-thirds of the mill House that stands on land that was my late Brother Samuel Peaslee, & all ye Privileges of passing & repassing to and from the said Barn and Mill House."

In 1758, when of Newbury, Amos sold to Gideon George fifty-five acres of land, extending from Jamaica path, adjoining land of Joseph Kelly, to the river, about one hundred and thirty-six rods: sixty-four upon the Merrinac: ninety rods north-westerly by heirs of Samuel Peaslee: thence by his own land to Jamaica path, and by it to bound first mentioned: "Excepting one acre of land now in possession of William Guie, which is bounded on s^d path about nine rods and one-quarter and runs south-easterly the same width to make an acre."

The next year he sold to Mr. George, for twelve pounds, a piece of about an acre and three-fourths, beginning at Jamaica path: south-east by s^d George's land thirty-one rods: thence north-east by heirs of

Samuel Peaslee ten rods; thence north-west by s^d heirs of Samuel twenty-nine rods to bound; thence south-west by Jamaica path ten rods to bound first mentioned.

In 1763 Mr. George purchased of Alice Blaney and her husband, for one hundred and twenty-six pounds, the land set off from the estate of Samuel, on the south-east side of Jamaica path.

Richard and Isaac Colby, brothers, bought twenty acres extending by the "old Drift way leading from Twelve-rod-way to Country Bridge." Joseph Kelly bought land adjoining his own. Amos Davis took meadow, and thus the sales went on until all the Peaslee possessions in the easterly part of Haverhill had passed into other hands.

The house built by Joseph Peaslee had been the home of his mother, Mary, in her last days. Joseph of the third generation had owned one-half and lived there before the family went to Methuen. Robert, of the same generation, owned and occupied it; then his son Amos, of the Fourth; and Robert, of the Fifth, whose three eldest children, born and living there before the sale of the property to Ephraim Elliott, made six generations of Peaslees sheltered beneath its roof.

Amos Peaslee married second, widow Elizabeth Austin of Dover, N. H., July 9, 1760, by whom he had a son Nicholas, who inherited the estate of his mother.

Amos Peaslee died June 28, 1787.

CHAPTER IV.

Katherine, eldest daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Davis) Hastings, married Samuel Davis, Jr. Elizabeth Hastings married the third Joseph Peaslee. Robert Hastings, Jr., married Elizabeth Bailey, daughter of Deacon Joseph Bailey of Bradford, March 18, 1706. John, brother of Robert, Jr., married May 2, 1717, Ednah "Bealy," sister of Elizabeth. George Hastings, born April 24, 1688, and his brother John built their houses at the foot of the hill beyond the homestead, the home of Robert Hastings, Sen., and his son Robert. The house of one was near the highway, in later years known as the J. H. Morse place, which was destroyed by fire many years since. The other brother built his house on the edge of the intervalle, now the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Swain, the daughter of Oliver Morse, in whose family it has been for more than a century, having been purchased of Robert Hastings of the third generation, son of the builder.

Henry Morse, father of Oliver, married Widow George, who had two children by her first husband. He lived awhile in the Hastings house near the highway, then built the gambrel-roof house on the Middle road, afterwards the home of Moses Thompson.

In 1698 James Sanders, Sen., was one of the selectmen of the town; the next year he served again with Lieut. Robert Hastings. James was in office again in 1702, and Lieut. Hastings in 1704. John Whittier was elected in 1705; in 1715, Robert Hastings, Jr.; in 1718, John Sanders, son of James; in 1735, James Sanders, Jr.; and in 1743 Robert Hastings held the office. Robert Hastings, Sen., was constable in 1691, and his son Robert in 1721.

With Joseph Peaslee and his sons Robert and Nathaniel, holding, for so many years, the offices of fence-viewer, surveyor, hog-reeve, constable, moderator, selectman, commissioner of claims and representative, it is evident that the men of the eastern end of Haverhill were among its most respectable and influential citizens.

In a list of the "Third foot company in Haverhill in 1757" are the names of Ensign Ezra Chase, Serjts. Robert Hunkins and Joseph Kelly, Amos Davis and Robert Hastings, and in the alarm list is the name of Jacob Sanders.

William Davis, son of Samuel, Sen., son of James, Sen., married Mary Calce (Kelly) December 31, 1700. They lived between the meeting-house road and the home of Miss R. I. Davis, in a house long since removed. They had eight children, four of whom died young. Judith, the youngest, born March 12, 1721-22, married Deacon Ezra Chase. They were the progenitors of another influential family of this neighborhood.

The road, or way, laid out in 1663, "to be perpetually twelve rods wide," was considered a great waste of land, and was a cause of constant trouble in the town. In 1754 this way was narrowed down to four rods in width, and persons in the vicinity, who had long desired it, had the privilege of purchasing the surplus land, which amounted to nineteen acres and forty-two rods.

In 1652 James Davis, Jun., owned a tract of land, bounded by land of his father, "James Davis, Sen., on the west: the great river on the south, on the north side a swamp, on the east a brook." He owned another piece, lying west of the land of his father, "bounded by a red oke at Coffin's Ordinary and running up that brook to a black oke, James Davis, Sen., on the east, the great river on the south."

When, in 1663, the twelve rod way was laid out, it ran from Coffin's Ordinary to the highway leading from Haverhill to Salisbury. From these bounds and ways we learn the location of Coffin's Ordinary, a short distance above the present Rocks bridge, where it would be convenient for boats to cross the river, and easy to land.

When Hazen Kimball began farming, in 1831, he discovered parts of a foundation of a building on a slight elevation, about ten rods south-west of the brook, nearly opposite the place on the West Newbury shore called "Whetstone Landing." He asked an aged resident about the building, and was told that there was once a house on the spot, but to whom it belonged he did not know; and no one has since been able to tell. This was situated at the old "Twelve-rod-way," very near the river and the mouth of the brook, and was probably the site of the old "Ordinary."

Joseph Peaslee must have considered the advantages of the place, when he selected the site of his future dwelling and made arrangements for building it. The bricks, brought up river to the landing, could easily have been taken up Twelve-rod-way, or, by the path now in use between Spring ravine and Rubbish hollow.

The land on the north-easterly side of the brook was owned by the Davis family, and the river end of the Twelve-rod-way must have been taken principally from their land. There is evidence that one of the succeeding generation thought the land of more value to him than to the town. He threw down the fence, thus getting himself into trouble with the selectmen, and giving Constable Hastings an opportunity to perform a service for the town.

Across the way from the site of Coffin's Ordinary, a century later, was the home of Joseph and Bridget Silloway. Joseph "Osilaway, aged 30 yrs.," was a soldier under Col. John Osgood, Jr., in "His Majesty's service for the invasion of Canada" in 1758, and during the remainder of his life he suffered from wounds received while in the army. "Joseph O'Silloway and Bridget Richerson" were married April 6, 1748. Their first child, Daniel, was born at Bradford March 3, 1750. Reuben, born August 11, 1755, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. A plain rough stone in Greenwood, bearing simply the initials "R. S.," marks his grave. Hannah was born October 11, 1757.

The house of Joseph and Bridget Silloway was in a beautiful situation, at the foot of a hill, with a fine view of the Merrimac and the West Newbury shore. The intervalle now bears the name of "Silloway Gardens." The widow sold liquor to those who called at her house for it. Rum was then fashionable—it was a necessity, so nearly every one thought: and, living on the edge of the highway, near the landing, no doubt the widow had many patrons, who, unmindful of the clear, cold water flowing down from the unfailing springs above, spent their hard-earned pennies for toddy, punch and flip.

Mrs. Silloway died November 23, 1810, aged 84 years.

In 1813 Samuel Easterbrooks purchased of David Silloway, for the sum of nine dollars, one undivided eighth part of the "small house and half acre of land." In the tiny cellar, where stood the house, is a good sized stump of an elm that was cut down several years since.

Samuel Easterbrooks married Hannah Silloway June 16, 1781, and had children: Joseph, born August, 1786; Abigail, November 12, 1788; and Samuel, born March 20, 1792.

James Sanders, Sen., at the foot of the hill, had two wives and fourteen children. His son James married Elizabeth Whittier June 22, 1699.

Samuel Colby was early in Haverhill, and had built a house upon the common prior to 1668. The land purchased of him, at a later date, by Joseph Peaslee, upon which Colby dwelt before going to Amesbury, was on the south side of Country Bridge road.

Richard Colby, son of Anthony, married Hannah, the daughter of Ephraim and Hannah (Eastman) Davis. Isaac, brother of Richard Colby, married Sarah Davis. Each had a second wife. Richard's was Tabitha Ela; Isaac's was Hannah Colby. The old Colby homestead was on the opposite side of the road from the home of the late Daniel T. Goss. Richard and Hannah had five children—Mary, born July 19, 1739, followed by Richard, Ephraim, John and Hannah. Samuel Colby was a son of Anthony Colby, who came from England to Boston in 1630, and was in Salisbury previous to 1640.

Besides the Colbys, there were others from Amesbury and Newbury who settled in the neighborhood. James Pike lived at Hunting Hill, on the opposite side of the road from the old well, still in use. John Morrison lived upon land now belonging to Mr. Ira Ordway. Joseph Silloway and Gideon Challis were "formerly of Amesbury," when soldiers under the crown in Haverhill. Challis lived near Holt's Rocks, on land bordering the Merrimac. It was purchased by John Greenleaf, willed by him to Benjamin Greenleaf, of whom it was purchased by Phineas Nichols, blacksmith, in 1770. This piece of land, with dwelling house, bordered the Merrimac river, joined land on the south already owned by Mr. Nichols, and was bounded on north-west and north-east by William Morse and Simon Brown, deceased.

Deacon Nichols bought of Amos Peaslee, of Dover, N. H., Lot No. 4 of estate of Samuel Peaslee, set off first to his widow, second to Amos, after her death. He was born October 12, 1740, and married, April 21, 1759, Anne Sanders, by whom he had thirteen children. He and Ezra Chase were in "Colo Johnson's Regt. of Militia" which marched on ye alarm April 19, 1775, from ye Town of Haverhill to

Cambridge." His son Jacob, then a young lad, was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill. Another son, born in 1778, named for him, married Betsey, daughter of Lieut. Moses Bartlett, and was the father of Eliza, Ann, and John B. Nichols of Rocks Village and several other children.

Deacon Phineas Nichols lived and kept a grocery store in the house lately the home of Miss Eliza Nichols, that stands upon the site of the dwelling of Dr. Brown, destroyed by fire in 1743, in which two lives were lost. Mr. Nichols sold molasses, which was brought up river in gondolas, and rolled in hogs-heads to the door. Mrs. Nichols sold pins, needles, and other useful articles.

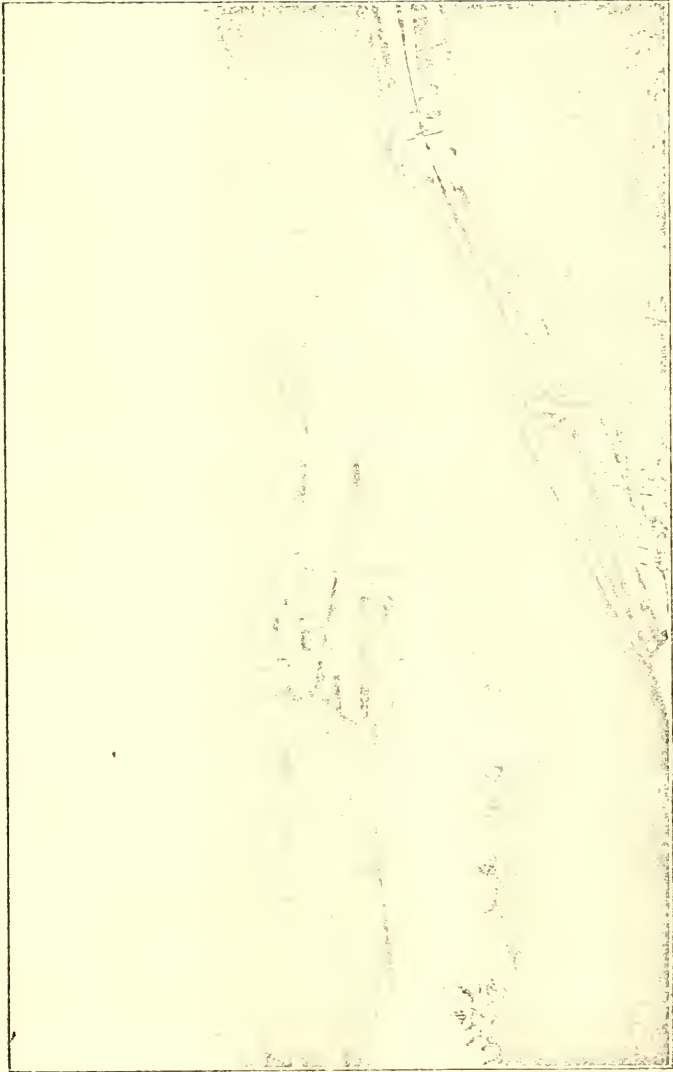
Deacon Nichols built, for his son Benjamin, the house near Sanders Hill, afterwards the home of John, son of Benjamin, who married Julia A. Chase, daughter of Esquire William D. S. Chase. They were the parents of the late William Munroe Nichols, and Frank Nichols, the present occupant of the dwelling.

Deacon Phineas Nichols died July 30, 1838, aged ninety-eight years.

The other Nichols house, the yellow building fronting the river, was, for a time, the residence of the parents of George Peabody. Had they remained a few weeks longer, Rocks Village could have claimed as her son the great American philanthropist and banker of London, England, born at Danvers, Mass., 1795.

Samuel Davis, Sen., was "of Amesbury" when his will was made. He died there, September 19, 1696. Deborah, his widow, the daughter of William Barnes, died January 14, 1718-19. The will of Ephraim, son of Samuel Davis, Sen., dated March 23, 1746, was proved October 7, 1751. Hannah (Eastman) the wife of Ephraim, died August 13, 1743. Amos, son of Ephraim and Hannah Davis, born May 11, 1727, was twice married. The first wife, Hannah, died in 1799; the second, also Hannah, died in 1846.

Deacon James Davis, son of Amos, lived on the homestead, and married first, Rebecca Ingersoll; second, Lydia Morse of West Newbury. He built the large house now the home of his daughter, Miss R. I. Davis, near the ancient dwelling erected by his grandfather, Ephraim Davis, now occupied by Deacon Daniel M. Davis, son of James. Amos Davis died in 1810.



ROCKS VILLAGE. YELLOW NICHOLS HOUSE.

Deacon Ezra and Judith (Davis) Chase had eight children. William, the youngest, born April 12, 1756, married Abigail Gove of Kingston, and their youngest child, William Davis Stickney, Esquire, born March 10, 1792, married Zelenda Gage December 3, 1818. The Chase Homestead was what is now the home of Asa M. Kimball, Esquire Chase having erected the second house near the site of the first dwelling of the family. Esquire and Mrs. Chase had seven children, but one of whom is now living — Mrs. Gyles Kelly, the mother of Clarence E. Kelly, Principal of the High School of Haverhill.

The house of Adrian Chase, who married a Colby, was between the cemetery and the house of Robert Kelly, on the river side of the street, on the second terrace, where the cellar may be seen near a few old apple trees. Adrian, the son, married Rhoda, daughter of Oliver Morse, and was a prominent business man of the city. His sister was the wife of Joseph Carr, of the Rocks.

Daniel T. Goss married Abby, daughter of Moses George, and settled on the Colby homestead, but, at the time of their marriage, the home of Mr. George.

Joseph Kelly died March 29, 1825, aged 76 years. His son Joseph married Elizabeth Colby, December 16, 1778. Their son Robert, born March 2, 1789, married Hannah Ayer and lived on the homestead.

A county highway was opened between Salisbury and Haverhill, soon after the settlement of the latter in 1640. The Haverhill part of this road was not the one where now is the line of the electric over Whittier hill, but the old Prince road from Nicholsville to Country Bridge. The Corliss hill road is another old highway, and the two, merged in one near Country Bridge, formed the road still open, but unused, known as Pear-tree Lane, which led directly to the small settlement of Haverhill.

The highway from Country Bridge to Holt's Rocks, near the Goss homestead, passed through the woods, by the old path still open between the Country Bridge road, as it now runs, over the causeway, and the old Jamaica path, now River road, or East Broadway.

Thomas Whittier, ancestor of the poet, built his first house about half a mile nearer Country Bridge than is the present Whittier homestead.

John Swett, of Newbury, kept the ferry at the Rocks forty years, and was succeeded by his son John. The father, in 1718, "engaged to carry the inhabitants over the river for a penny a single person and four pence for a man and horse."

Gideon George married Elizabeth Jewett, of Rowley, April 14, 1737. They had seven children. William, the eldest, born at Bradford November 18, 1737; Amos, the youngest, born in Haverhill May 31, 1754. One of the daughters, Anne, born September 11, 1749, married Jacob Sibley, of whose wedding outfit and horse-back journey to their home in Hopkinton, N. H., an interesting account is given in Chase's "History of Haverhill."

Major Amos George married Sarah Green October 7, 1777. They had nine children, born in their home, the house formerly owned by Samuel Peaslee. William, one of his sons, built a house on the same piece of land fronting the Twelve-rod-way. Moses George lived on the southerly side of Jamaica path, and Gideon, another son of Major Amos George, married Nancy Chase December 21, 1804, and built on the same side of the street near the hill, using a one-story house with a gambrel roof, that stood nearer the road, for the I. to his two-story house, now the home of the Misses Caroline F. and Mary W. George.

April 13, 1758, Amos Currier, for twenty pounds, sold to William Guie of Haverhill one acre of land bounded at the north-east corner by Amos Peaslee's land, thence running south-east by the house, then south-east to bound, then north-east by s^l land, "with dwelling house and barn." This was signed before Nathaniel Peaslee, Justice of the Peace. In the Deed of 1758, from Amos Peaslee to Gideon George, Sen., William Guie was in possession of one acre, bounded on Jamaica path "nine and one-quarter rods and running south-easterly the same width to make an acre," which tract, with an addition of about three-quarters of an acre, was, the following year, sold by Amos Peaslee to Gideon George, Sen., for twelve pounds, and by his grandson Gideon, son of Major Amos George, the house was moved back to its present position in the rear of the main structure.

Amos Currier, born September 12, 1730, son of Samuel and Abigail (Kelly) Currier, married Mary Currier March 13, 1753. He entered the army as drummer September 15, 1755, in a company "of men who went to Allany," in which Joseph Silloway was "Sergt. and William Guie private." Amos Currier died June 15, 1759. Abigail, daughter

of Amos and Mary Currier, was born after the death of her father. There were four other children.

Major Amos George was one of the constituent members of the "Church at the Rocks Village," at whose house, "1st Jan^y, 1822, the members & messengers invited from sister Churches met at 10 A. M., Rev^d Mr. Wheeler in the chair, Geo. Kealy scribe." At the ordination of Rev. William Bowen, March 16, 1825, the examination was held by the fifteen delegates in the same house, after which they proceeded to the meeting-house and carried out the previously arranged order of exercises.

Major George died December 23, 1827. He had two wives. Sarah died September 29, 1815; Sarah, the second wife, died November 16, 1856.

George Parker, famous soloist of several musical societies of Boston, is the son of Charlotte, daughter of Gideon and Nancy (Chase) George: her sister, Almira George, was the wife of Amos Davis, son of Deacon James and Lydia Davis.

CHAPTER V.

Robert Peaslee, son of Amos, married Anne Hazen. Their children were: Elizabeth, born July 18, 1758; Abigail, born July 4, 1760; Amos, born September 11, 1762; Zachens, born October 8, 1764; William, born June 7, 1767, and Robert, born May 24, 1769.

In 1760 Robert Peaslee, Ensign, was in the Muster Roll of Capt. Joseph Swett of Rowley. In 1776 he was 1st Lieutenant in Col. John Waldron's Regiment. Col. Waldron was of Dover, N. H. The following letter from Jacob Bayley to Col. Timothy Bedel, acting Quarter Master at Haverhill, is from New Hampshire State Papers:

"NEWBURY, 6th Feb., 1779.

SIR:—Mr. Robert Peaslee has a number of Mogasens to Turn into the States for Continental use as you act as Quarter Master and are a Judge of the goodness of Mogasens what you think will answer and you receive I will account with him for

I am yours,

JACOB BAYLEY."

In April of the same year Robert Peaslee was the bearer of a letter from Col. Hazen to Col. Bedel.

In a long letter from Col. Bedel to Col. Hazen, found in "Vol. 17, New Hampshire State Papers," is the following extract, which shows that in some cases the "spirit of '76" could be spelled with three letters:

"I should be glad to know what your agreement was with Mr. Peaslee about the Rum and Salt your letter says Mr. Peaslee is to Deliver to you at Coos three Hundred gallons of good Rum and Fifty Bushels of the best Rock salt in June if so very well let them Risk it."

William, the son of Robert and Anne (Hazen) Peaslee, of Dover, N. H., married Hannah Folsom. Their son, Charles Hazen, born at Gilmanton, N. H., February 6, 1804, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1824 and opened a law office in Concord in 1828. He was Adjutant and Inspector General of the Militia of New Hampshire for eight years: was six years Representative in Congress; Trustee of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane: Director of the Concord Railroad, and Collector of the Port of Boston and Charlestown, Massachusetts, April 1, 1853.

Moses, son of John and Mary (Martin) Peaslee, born in 1714, married Mary Gove December 15, 1712, and had ten children. Moses, their third child, born November 26, 1747, in the year 1789, for the sum of one thousand and eighty pounds lawful money, purchased of his brothers and sisters a certain tract of land in Newton, N. H., containing ninety acres, more or less: the first bound at a highway leading to Kingston: by land of Whittier north-west two hundred seventy-eight rods: by a highway, south, fifty-eight rods: by land of Mark Whittier and Micajah Peaslee two hundred seventy rods to highway; by the highway to first bound about fifty-five rods. This was not recorded until November 4, 1800.

When the deed conveying this land was signed, Jonathan and Ebenezer were of Weare, and Humphrey was of Deering, in Hillsborough county, in New Hampshire, all farmers: John Dustin, Physician, and Mary, his wife, were of Londonderry, in Rockingham county; Obadiah, Elizabeth and Anna Peaslee were of Newton: John Merrill, yeoman, and wife Patience were of Amesbury, Mass.

John, the fifth child, is not mentioned in the transaction, nor is his name among the signers of the deed.

The Haverhill records show that one John Peaslee married Hannah Green, with children—"John, born March 10, 1769: Sarah, born April 7, 1771: Nathaniel, born March, 1775: and Hannah, born August 5, 1778."

"John Peaslee, the husband, died of small pox December 2, 1778."

Moses Peaslee, Sen., died in September, 1784: his wife Mary (Gove) died January, 1805.

Moses Peaslee, the son of Moses, married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard and Hannah (Patchelder) Bartlett, who was born July 29,

1770, being twenty-three years and six months younger than her husband. Obadiah, brother of Moses, married Hannah, another daughter of Richard Bartlett, born May 11, 1775.

Richard Bartlett was the third son of Dea. Joseph Bartlett, who was carried into captivity by the Indians from the house of Simon Wainwright of Haverhill, where he was on duty as a soldier August 20, 1708. He was taken to Canada, where he remained four years, two months and nine days. After his return to Newbury, Mass., his native place, he wrote a "Narrative" of his captivity, which may be found in Coffin's "History of Newbury." He settled on a farm in Newton, N. H., and married, first, Elizabeth Tuxbury, December 5, 1717, who died October 6, 1718. His second wife was Sarah Hoyt, by whom he had ten children. They were married April 27, 1721.

In the rear of the Town Hall, Newton, are the graves of Joseph Bartlett and many members of his family, who were prominent in the town affairs. Upon the stone at the grave of Joseph is this inscription. "In memory of Joseph Bartlett, Esq. (First Capt. of the Town & many years a Deacon in the Church of Christ) who died Feb. 1, 1754, in the 68th Year of his Age."

Mary, the sixth child of Joseph and Sarah Bartlett, married Dr. Josiah Bartlett, born in Amesbury, afterwards Governor of New Hampshire.

Richard and Hannah Bartlett lived in the part of the town now called Newton Junction. Their eldest child, Sarah, married a Carrier and lived in Cornville, Maine. Two young children, Dolly and Molly, died January 7, 1787, of scarlet fever, and Phineas, the only son, died "the 12th day of the same month in the morning at five o'clock," according to the old family record.

Near the graves of Capt. Joseph Bartlett and his wife Sarah are those of Richard and Hannah Bartlett. Beside the mother's is a small stone with the names "Molley And Dolley."

"Richard Bartlett died April 24, 1818, at ten o'clock in the evening, aged 80 years." Hannah died July 16, 1827, aged 80 years, 9 months.

Hannah was the daughter of Phineas and Elizabeth (Gilman) Batchelder, and a descendant of Rev. Stephen Bachiler, the founder of the town of Hampton, N. H., in 1638.

The Peaslees were Quakers, the Bartletts Congregationalists. For marrying outside of the order, the Peaslee brothers, Moses and Obadiah, were excluded from the Society of Friends, although they still held to the faith of their fathers. Moses lived at the corner of the Kingston and Plaistow roads, and Obadiah's home was nearly opposite the house of his son, the late Moses B. Peaslee.

Moses and Elizabeth (Bartlett) Peaslee had four children: Hannah, born July 23, 1792, married John B. Hoyt of Amesbury and had one child, Sarah Elizabeth, who married Elbridge Carter of Newton; Dorothy, born August 5, 1795, died unmarried January 28, 1875; Moses, born February 3, 1798, died unmarried September 17, 1874; Eliza, born February 18, 1806, married Hazen Kimball May 12, 1831, died December 3, 1876.

Moses Peaslee died October 18th, 1828, aged 80 years, 10 months. Elizabeth, wife of Moses Peaslee, died December 18, 1858, aged 88 yrs. They were buried in the old cemetery near their home, with their ancestors. The stones at their graves, and a few others, have inscriptions, that of Mrs. Elizabeth Peaslee bearing the latest date.

Moses Peaslee was in Boston at the time of the famous Tea Party, and is said to have done his part in helping along a good cause.

Dorothy, Moses Peaslee, Jr., and their sister, Mrs. Hazen Kimball, were interred in Greenwood cemetery, near Rock's Village, Haverhill.

The other inscriptions in the old cemetery at Newton are:

"James Peaslee, Esq., died Nov. 21, 1821, .Æt 36."

"Mary, daughter of Caleb and Nabby Peaslee, died Aug. 20, 1838, aged 15 years."

"Frederick, son of Caleb and Nabby Peaslee, died Nov. 20, 1824, .Æt 3."

"Mrs. Nabby, wife of Caleb Peaslee, died Oct. 14, 1833, .Æt 48."

"Hannah P., wife of Ephraim D. Chase, died — 25, 1847, .Æt 30."

The stone is broken and lies beside that of

"Thomas Peaslee, died June 27, 1851, aged 63.
Prepare to die and follow me."

The children of Obadiah and Hannah (Bartlett) Peaslee were: Sally, born August 4, 1794, married John Peaslee of Kingston, died December 19, 1861; Moses, born November 16, 1796, died April 19, 1799; Hannah, born April 16, 1800, married Mr. Fitts, died July 28, 1865. Richard, born May 30, 1802, married Elizabeth Fitts, and lived in Newton: he died August 10, 1857. Elizabeth, the wife, died January 6, 1859, aged 60 years. Mary, born April 23, 1805, married, in 1830, Rev. Moses Chase, born February 13, 1803: died January 8, 1866. They had one son, Dr. Irah E. Chase of Haverhill.

Ebenezer, Rev., born January 31, 1808, married Rebekah Fitts: died April 30, 1891. Rebekah, the wife, was born June 30, 1810; died July 25, 1891. Mr. Peaslee was a Methodist minister and farmer, of Newton.

Louisa, born May 6, 1812, married David Little of Hampstead, N. H.

Moses B. Peaslee, born May 14, 1816, a prominent man and successful farmer of Newton, married Miss Louise Tuxbury of Amesbury. They had no children. While attending to a bonfire in his field he fell and was burned to death.

Betsy, the youngest, born September 5, 1819, married Tristram Little of Hampstead and lived near her sister, Mrs. David Little. She died March 4, 1898, the last of the family of nine children.

Obadiah Peaslee died October 25, 1846, and his widow Hannah died April 9, 1860. They, with the child Moses, and Mrs. Sally Peaslee, the mother of Mrs. John Hoyt, repose with the early Bartletts near the Town Hall in the village cemetery.

Rev. Ebenezer Peaslee and wife, Rebekah, had nine children, five of whom died before the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, in February, 1883. Their son, John S. Peaslee, of Newton village, is President of the Peaslee Association.

James Peaslee, Esq., and Caleb were brothers; sons of Edmund³, (James⁴, John⁵, Joseph⁶, Joseph⁷).

James had four children. Dr. Edmund Randolph Peaslee, LL. D., of New York, born in Newton Jan. 22, 1814, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1836. Of him, Mr. Beede wrote, in Exeter News-Letter, September 16, 1898: "He was professor and lecturer at Dartmouth

College for nearly forty years, lecturer and professor in Bowdoin College, also in New York Medical College. . . . He was a member and officer of medical societies of both continents; published many contributions to medical and scientific periodicals, and two books. He died in 1879."

Daniel C. Peaslee settled in Newton and brought up a family of ten children. Abigail White Peaslee married Daniel, son of Joab Peaslee, and had nine children. They lived on Sweet Hill in Plaistow; were parents of Edson E. Peaslee of Westville, and Miss Adah S. Peaslee, the artist, who died in June, 1898. The other sister, Elizabeth C., married Dr. Nye of Lynn, Mass.

Joab Peaslee of the sixth generation, of Plaistow, N. H., was son of Reuben⁵ (Nathan⁴, John³). Reuben was the father of Rev. Reuben Peaslee, a Methodist preacher, the author of "The Experience Christian And Ministerial of Mr. Reuben Peaslee," advertised as a pamphlet "Just published and for sale at the Haverhill Book store," in the Merrimack Intelligencer, September 21, 1816. He published "A Choice Selection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs Designed To Aid in the Devotions of Prayer, Conference, and Camp-Meetings," at "Haverhill, Mass. Printed at the Gazette Office, 1826." Joab⁶ of Plaistow had a son Reuben, who married Harriet Willetts and had ten children. John B., the eldest, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1863; was for twelve years superintendent of public schools in Cincinnati, Ohio; was clerk of the courts in Hamilton county for more than six years; "candidate for lieutenant-governor; trustee of Cincinnati and Miami Universities," and is a life member of the National Educational Association. Edson E. Peaslee married Hattie A., daughter of Reuben and Harriet Peaslee; her brother, Joab Peaslee, lives on the paternal homestead in Plaistow.

Rev. Reuben Peaslee had a brother, Judge Daniel Peaslee, who settled in Vermont.

The following is from the Gazette & Patriot, Haverhill, Mass., Saturday, Aug. 20, 1825, from Concord, N. H., Register:

"DESTRUCTION BY LIGHTNING.

We learn from Weare that on Tuesday last the lightning descended upon the large barn of Moses Peaslee, which, with its extensive shed, carriage house, &c., that join his house, and the house itself, was entirely

consumed with all their contents, together with a number of very large and valuable swine that were in a pen within the shed. The men of the family being at work in a field at some distance, and few neighbors being near, little could be done to save any part of the property. Mr. Peaslee's loss is very heavy: it cannot be less than \$4,000."

Jonathan Peaslee and Ebenezer, his brother, of Weare, each had a son Moses. Ebenezer's son, born February 13, 1785, married Mary Johnson. He died November 14, 1849. His son Robert, born March 11, 1818, married in 1846 Persis B. Dodge. They were the parents of Judge Robert James Peaslee, born September 23, 1864, and Rev. Arthur N. Peaslee, lately pastor of St. John's Episcopal church of Haverhill.

The second wife of Caleb Peaslee died recently in the ninety-third year of her age, at the home of Robert S. French, Danville, N. H.

CHAPTER VI.

The western part of Amesbury, now Merrimac, was called "Jemaco" or "Jamaca," hence the name Jamaica path, applied to the highway leading from Haverhill to Amesbury. The second church of Amesbury was gathered at "Jemaco" May 19, 1726. Paine Wingate, son of Col. Joshua Wingate, of Hampton, N. H., then a young man, was ordained June 3d of the same year and settled as pastor of the new church. His son Paine was a graduate of Harvard in 1759, and ordained at Hampton Falls, N. H., 1763. He was a member of the old Congress under the Confederation: was a senator in Congress and Judge of the Supreme Court. Mary, daughter of Col. Joshua Wingate, was the wife of Timothy Pickering of Salem.

Ephraim Elliott, who, in 1763, purchased of Amos Peaslee the "Old Garrison," was a son of Thomas of Amesbury, and married a daughter of Rev. Paine Wingate. When a boy he had worked for Robert Peaslee. He was a saddler by trade.

Thomas, his eldest child, was born in 1752: Ephraim, the next son, in 1762: Moses, third son, born at the Peaslee homestead in 1767, dying in 1785, was the first person interred in Greenwood cemetery, then a pasture owned by Mr. Elliott.

Mrs. Elliott was a strong-minded woman, well versed in Scripture, as the daughter of a minister was then expected to be, and, possessing a tenacious memory, could repeat so much of the Bible that her neighbors said she "knew it all by heart."

When the family moved into the Peaslee house, Mrs. Elliott found too many apartments, and had some superfluous ones removed. The "Grate Barn" was then considerably larger than it now is, about forty feet, containing the old cider press, having been taken from the end towards the house.

At a town meeting held January 3, 1775, Ephraim Elliott was chosen one of a committee of three for the East Parish to show each man "his proportion of the sum he should pay to be given unto the Poor unhappy Sufferers of the Town of Boston occasioned by the oppressive Port Bill." After the battle of Bunker Hill he was a member of a Committee of Correspondence and Safety. He was one of the four male members of the newly reorganized church in East Parish in 1797. No stones mark the graves of Ephraim Elliott, Sen., and his wife. It is probable that their remains were placed beside their son, Moses, in Greenwood.

Thomas, eldest son of Ephraim Elliott, married, January 14, 1778, Sarah Swett, and kept tavern in Rocks Village, where now is the house of Mr. Stephen Noyes, in a building which was removed from its original site, and divided in two parts: one, taken up the hill to the corner of the Peaslee estate, is now the home of Mr. R. A. Chase; the other part was removed down the hill and is now in possession of the heirs of the late Capt. John Osgood.

Thomas Elliott died February 6, 1818. Sarah, the wife, died June 6, 1833, aged 79 years. Their daughter Sally married Joseph Rochemont de Poyen, one of the exiles from Guadaloupe in the time of the French Rebellion, who found refuge in this country. Their son, Francis Louis, died August 24, 1838, aged 28 years. Their daughter, Abby Poyen, married Matthew Franklin, brother of John G. Whittier. Their son, Joseph Poyen Whittier, died August 5, 1838, when but fifteen days old. Their daughter Sarah died at the age of eight months, March 13, 1841. Mrs. Whittier died the same year.

Henry Ingalls married, September, 1777, Abigail Wingate. They had four children: Mary Balch, the youngest, born August 10, 1786, married March 21, 1805, Count Francois Vipart of Guadaloupe. She died January 5, 1807. Her mother passed away the 29th of the following August, aged 58 years. Mr. Ingalls married, second, April 17, 1811, Susanna Merrill of Methuen. "Henry Ingalls died at the Poor House April 12, 1832," is the record on the town book of Haverhill.

The countess lived just across the street from the tavern of Thomas Elliott. Near her grave is a stone inscribed to the memory of "Dr. William Abbot, died April 18, 1798, aged 34." The funeral of Dr. Abbot was attended by Dr. E. Weld, who, seeing in the situation a promising opening for a physician, courted and married the widow

Abbot, established himself in the village, and made use of the house where dwelt the countess as an L. to the larger house built by him—in later years the home of Dr. Timothy Kenison. In Whittier's poem, "The Countess," the prelude is inscribed to "E. W."—the good Dr. Weld of Rocks Village.

"Whose ancient sulky down the village lanes
Dragged like a war-car, captive ills and pains,

* * * * *

Who saw so plainly and so well could paint
The village-folk with all their humors quaint."

Certainly Dr. Weld, who, "night and day," went "duty's lonely round," could not have been one of the "idlers" of the "cobwebbed nook of dreams." There were "native dwellers," not wholly covered with "moss and rust," who resented this portrayal of the inhabitants. Because one of the name had spent there much time in idleness, was not considered by them sufficient reason why the poet should give to the world the impression, lately expressed by a relative, that, "only the off-scouring of the earth lived at Rocks Village."

Has not the Rocks contributed her proportion of pluck and perseverance that has helped to make Haverhill what it is? Was not Rufus L. Chase, the wealthy shoe manufacturer, born here? Were not the Elliott brothers, Samuel and George, sons of David and Abigail (Easterbrooks) of the village? Did not Samuel D. Maynard keep the village store? William Stickney Chase and William Munroe Nichols made for themselves reputations as men of business. Wallace T. George and his son, Edward B. George, are sons of the village, well known in and outside of Haverhill. The Poyens of Merrimac are descendants of John, (son of Joseph Poyen) who married the eldest daughter of Dr. Timothy Kenison. Deacon John Kirby Chase, of Lowell, although born in West Newbury, came here when very young, and in the village lived during boyhood and youth. Adrian Chase, Rev. Daniel W. Hoyt, Rev. George W. Gile, Rev. Nathaniel L. Colby of Manchester, N. H., and Professor Moses Clement Gile of Colorado Springs, Colorado, were born in or near the Rocks. Samuel Chase of Lowell and Moses Williams of West Newbury took unto themselves wives of the daughters of Samuel Easterbrooks. Warren Ordway of Bradford married a daughter of Enoch Foote, Esq. John B. Nichols and Samuel Elliott married sisters, the grand-daughters of Ephraim

Elliott, Jr. Thus have the sons and daughters of the "stranded village" gone out to fulfill life's duties, honoring themselves and the place of their nativity: while other names on the marble and slate of Greenwood,

"The dry old names that common breath
Has cheapened and outworn,"

The names of Ladd, Ingersoll, Harriman, Burtoughs, Moody, Knowles, Jaques, Colby and others, tell of useful lives of men and women long since departed.

Surely the Rocks is a good place to be born in, else a celebrated artist of Boston would not have claimed it as the birthplace of a distant ancestor of his wife, in order that he might (figuratively speaking) hang him to one of the great beams of the Peaslee-Elliott homestead!

There were in the community three families of Elliotts not claiming relationship to each other; probably all descendants of Edmund Elliott, of Amesbury, and distantly related.

The blacksmith's shop, where was heard the "slow and sluggard beat," stood at the junction of the street, that passes the meeting-house, with the main street. It was converted into a school-house, then again used as a shop, and finally removed to the Hunkin's neighborhood, where it now stands on the premises of Mr. Pettingill; while the school-house of that settlement was taken to the Hastings-Kelly homestead, and is now used as a shop by Warren Small.

Another school building stood near the intersection of the Twelve-rod-way and East Broadway, in which Harriet Livermore taught school and conducted religious services, and in which, and also in the house of Major Amos George, formerly the home of Samuel Peaslee, were held the first meetings of the Second Baptist church of Haverhill. In 1844 James C. Elliott sold to the inhabitants of "District Number 14" a piece of land where the Country Bridge road joins East Broadway, to which this building was removed, where it remained for nearly thirty years. When districts 6 and 14 were united, and the house was no longer needed by the inhabitants of Number 14, it was removed to Sanders Hill, for the accommodation of pupils in "Hunkinstown," as that neighborhood was then called. In 1898 it was purchased by Messrs. Jesse and Herbert Atwood, and, to make room for the new school building, was once more removed, and remodelled into a chapel.

Ephraim Elliott, Jr., inherited, during his lifetime, the estate of his father. He married, March 13, 1788, Mehitabel, daughter of Deacon David Haseltine of the West Parish of Haverhill, and sister of two of the wives of Col. James Kimball of Bradford. Their eldest child, Dr. Moses H., born in 1789, was for a time the accepted lover of the eccentric and famous Harriet Livermore. He entered the United States Army as surgeon near the close of the war of 1812 and died of yellow fever contracted in the hospital at Pensacola, Florida, September 22, 1822, aged 33 years. After many years his remains were brought to his native place and interred in Greenwood, with others of the family.

The other children of Ephraim Elliott, Jr., were: Sophia: Paine Wingate: James Carr, born 1802: Mary: Mary Carr, born August 27, 1806: Samuel: Elizabeth Moody and Hazen. Sophia became Mrs. Ayer. Elizabeth M. married Prof. Fullonton of Cobb Divinity School, Lewiston, Maine. Paine Wingate and Mary died young. Mary Carr married Theodore Ordway, and lived at the Rocks: their daughters, Elizabeth and Frances Ordway, married Deacons James and Daniel M. Davis. Samuel Elliott was a dentist in Reading, and James C., who inherited the estate of his grandfather, Ephraim Elliott, Sen., lived unmarried in the "Old Garrison." Hazen lived in Haverhill.

Ephraim Elliott, Jr., died November 20, 1841. Mehitabel, the widow, died June 7, 1843.

James C. Elliott died December 18, 1875.

Among the lovers of Whittier there has been much conjecture as to the location of "The River Path," the subject of one of his best short poems. Whoever has walked or driven through a pleasant street bordering the Merrimac, in Haverhill or Amesbury, with this poem in mind, has mentally decided just where this path should have been: but the path through the old "Drift Way," at the base of Hunting Hill, is not only the direct and shortest route from the Whittier homestead to the river, but answers perfectly the description of the scene and the conditions of the poem. Let the reader start from Whittier's late in the afternoon of a clear September day, when the maples have put on their gorgeous apparel of red and shimmering gold: and, following the road along the base of Job's Hill, beyond Country Bridge road, make a short cut across a pasture on the left, to the old road leading over the bridge near the Morse-Thompson house: cross East Broadway at the foot of Hunting Hill, and, remembering that until within a few years

the hill was covered with a dense growth of wood, keep straight on to the river, slowly descending the deep ravine or gully, where

"The dusk of twilight round us grew
We felt the falling of the dew."

the rambler will find it literally true that

"From us ere the day was done
The wooded hills shut out the sun.
Sudden our pathway turned from night,
The hills swung open to the light.
Through their green gates the sunshine showed,
A long, slant splendor downward flowed.
Down glade and glen and bank it rolled ;
It bridged the shaded stream with gold ;
And, borne on piers of mist, allied
The shadowy with the sunlit side."

The sun in the west shines over Millvale reservoir and behind Hunting Hill, upon the autumnal foliage of the wooded hill on the opposite shore. Emerging from the darkness, as the full glory of the scene comes into view, one understands how the poet came to write

"From out the darkness where we trod
We gazed upon those hills of God."

Mr. Pickard, in his *Life of Whittier*, quotes a "fragment of a ballad about the home-comings as a bride of his grandmother, Sarah Greenleaf," in which the bride crosses the river in a boat with the bridegroom, then walks with him through the woods by the "dam and the gray grist mill," stopping for the moment at

"The haunted bridge of the Country Brook,"

and, receiving a welcome from the waving branches of giant oaks on Job's Hill, crossed a streamlet and arrived at the farm-house of the bridegroom.

The home Sarah (Greenleaf) Whittier left on the West Newbury shore was nearly opposite the gully and dritt way at Hunting Hill. When Robert Peaslee died in 1712 the grist mill stood in "Eastman pasture" on "East-meadow river," where, afterwards, was a fulling mill.



PURCHASED BY EPHRAIM ELLIOTT, 1763.

These poems indicate a familiarity with this old way, now lonely and seldom used, but once a scene of activity, when logs were drawn by oxen from forest to the river and floated down to points along shore : or, when great loads of fire-wood were taken over the Merrimac on nature's bridge of ice. Here the young poet might often have sought recreation and diversion after the heat and toil of a summer day.

There are, in this neighborhood, a score of century-old houses, while some are much older. Quaintly shaped and picturesque buildings are these, with huge chimneys, sometimes fronting the street, sometimes backed up against it, and often with one end towards it, but generally facing the south or south-west.

From the knowledge obtained by a careful study of dates and events, it appears that the date of the house of Joseph Peaslee, should be 1674; that of the Hastings-Kelly dwelling prior to 1696, perhaps 1676. The house of Ephraim Davis was probably erected at about 1700, or between that date, when he became of age, and 1705, when he married. The Hastings-Morse place is of about the same age, and the Hunkin's house, or a part of it, was built in 1711. The Samuel Peaslee dwelling was erected prior to 1742; the L. of the George house before 1758. The house purchased of Greenleaf by Phineas Nichols is many years older than the one in which he lived, built by him about 1761. The cottage of Mrs. Hannah Ramsey was once owned by Samuel Easterbrooks, who married Hannah Silloway, in which the second chimney is doing service, the first having been removed many years since.

Nor are these the only homes of the community worthy of consideration, there being under the hill and just across the line in the town of Merrimac many more ancient structures, of which, and the inhabitants who came and went, in the prosperous days of the once thriving village, many interesting tales might be told — not properly belonging to this sketch of the Peaslees, and others connected with them by marriage, business and neighborhood relations.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

"THE BRICK HOUSE FRONTING ON JAMAICA PATH."

THE HASTINGS-KELLY HOMESTEAD.

THE DAVIS HOMESTEAD.

ROCKS VILLAGE. YELLOW NICHOLS HOUSE.

PURCHASED BY EPHRAIM ELLIOTT, 1763.

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